

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 16th July 1952.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras, at half past ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair,

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Amount of subsistence loan allotted to Punganur taluk.

* 92 Q.—SRI G. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether, while the applications for subsistence loans in Punganur taluk, Chittoor district, number 15,000, the money allotted for the entire taluk for the purpose is only Rs. 15,000?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"The amount allotted up to 31st July 1952 is Rs. 15,000. The number of applications for subsistence loans received up to 28th June 1952 is 14,126. The number disposed of is 1,177. The Collector has already been authorized to spend over and above the allotment, pending Budget sanction."

SRI B. KRISHNAMOORTHY ROW:—"Especially in zamindari areas, pattas are not transferred in proper time and Punganur taluk is a zamindari area. Most of the applications have been rejected by the authorities on the ground that the patta of the lands offered as security is not in the name of the applicant. Will the Government be pleased to make some special provision in respect of zamindari areas, especially now when famine conditions are prevailing?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—

"Instructions have been given that loans could be granted on securities other than land in cases where pattas for the land have not been issued to the applicants."

SRI P. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"May I know whether the Government have issued orders to the effect that the subsistence loan will be disbursed 50 per cent in kind and 50 per cent in cash and that the 50 per cent in kind should be in the shape of milo?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"Yes, Sir."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI:—"May I know the principle on which subsistence loans are given, whether the Government are willing to give them to people who do not have anything to give in writing to the Government by way of security for the loans and to people who own no lands but who have taken lands on lease for cultivation?"

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—
 “ Something is necessary to be given in writing. We cannot avoid that, but we can advance loans on securities other than landed property.”

SRI P. GOPALAKRISHNA REDDI :—“ Is there any order to the effect that subsistence loans can be given only to those who pay a land revenue of Rs. 10 and below? ”

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—
 “ There is no such hard and fast rule.”

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—“ Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to tell us whether the applicants whose applications are pending will be granted subsistence loans and, if so, within what period? ”

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—“ The very large number of applications is accounted for by the activities of certain kindly persons. The Government will try as far as possible to meet all the demands.”

SRI T. POTHA RAJU :—“ Have the Government authorized the District Collectors to provide more funds for the grant of agricultural improvement loans, if the funds allotted so far are not sufficient to meet the demand from the ryots? ”

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—
 “ Collectors are given complete discretion to meet all the reasonable demands of the ryots.”

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“ Sir, the Hon. Minister was pleased to say that the large number of applications was accounted for by the activities of some kindly persons. Is it his opinion that many people are prosperous and that they are applying for subsistence loans only as a matter of fun? ”

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—“ No, Sir, I have not talked of any fun. The persons to whom the cap fits may wear it.”

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—“ Is the Hon. Minister aware that the holders of inam lands are not admitted to this concession and, if so, what is the reason for it? ”

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—“ I will examine that aspect of the question.”

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“ The Hon. Minister says that the persons, to whom the cap fits, may wear it. I would ask Hon. Ministers not to use such language. I would request particularly the Hon. Revenue Minister to be serious in answering an important question relating to the poor people. May I ask him to change his frame of mind and issue instructions to the authorities to be liberal in the grant of subsistence loans? ”

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—“ I took the Leader of the Opposition to be a humorous gentleman. I do not know why he has ceased to be humorous on this occasion.”

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SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—“ May I know on what basis subsistence loans are granted? ”

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—“ The Government take into account the need of the applicant and the probability of repayment.”

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN :—“ May I know from the Hon. Minister the maximum amount of subsistence loan that is given to an individual? ”

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—
“ Rs. 200.”

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—“ May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government consider the present situation to be very serious and whether they are willing to increase the allotment to each place for the grant of subsistence loans? To expedite the disposal of applications, will the Government be pleased to supply jeeps to the Revenue Inspectors to enable them to visit all the villages within their jurisdiction for enquiring into the creditworthiness of the applicants for the grant of loans, as otherwise they may not be able to visit all the places in time? ”

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—
“ I cannot go into the question of jeeps here. But the suggestion of the hon. Member will be earnestly considered.”

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—“ Is the Hon. Minister aware that several applications for subsistence loans from Chingleput are pending in the Chingleput Collector's Office, because some of the applicants are not in a position to grease the palms of the lower officials? ”

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—
“ It may be that some applications are pending. My hon. Friend can do useful work by seeing that the palms do not get very itchy.”

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—“ Taking a clue from the Hon. Minister himself, I approached the Collector, Deputy Collector, Tahsildar and all the rest of the hierarchy down to the Revenue Inspector. But nothing happened. More than 600 applications are pending with the Collector of Chingleput, and most of the applicants are very poor people. At least after this question is put, will the Hon. Minister see that the applications are disposed of as quickly as possible? ”

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—“ Yes, Sir. I will take the suggestion and do whatever I can do.”

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—“ Is it a fact that hundreds of loan applications, which were scrutinized and recommended by the authorities concerned, are pending in Srikakulam district for want of order of allotment of funds from the Revenue Board? ”

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—
“ I will do what all I can to expedite the disposal of the applications.”

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SRI M. DHARMALINGAM :—“ Will the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to tell us the fundamental rules and other conditions which have to be fulfilled to become eligible for subsistence loans? ”

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—“ The need of the applicant, the security offered and the probability of repayment are taken into consideration.”

SRI C. PULLA REDDI :—“ Is it a fact that the funds allotted for the Kurnool district have already been disbursed and that the Collector has asked the Government for an additional allotment of Rs. 5 lakhs in view of the large number of applications pending there? What action have the Government taken on the Collector's request? ”

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—“ As far as Kurnool district is concerned, the question of more allotment is under consideration. If I remember aright, some amounts have already been ordered to be disbursed.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—“ As the peasants have lost most of the cattle, will the Government help them by giving loans for the purchase of cattle? ”

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—“ The question relates to the subsistence of ryots and not the subsistence of cattle.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—“ My question has not been answered. It is being by-passed.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ The hon. Member may put a separate question.”

Damages for forcible procurement of paddy.

* 93 Q.—SRI P. RANGASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a judgment, dated 28th April 1952, passed by the Principal Subordinate Judge, Tiruchirappalli, in favour of a leading advocate there, awarding damages against the State, for procuring his paddy forcibly and illegally; and

(b) whether any action was taken against the officials responsible for illegal procurement?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

“ (b) The Government are examining the question whether an appeal might be preferred against the judgment. The question of taking any action against the procuring officials does not arise at present.”

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—“ Sir, why do the Government think that the question of taking any action against the procurement officials does not arise at present? ”

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ The reason is stated in the answer to clause (b). ”

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—“ What was the form of force and the quantum of force applied to that leading advocate? ”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ No force was used. ”

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—“ Sir, since the judgment was delivered on 28th April 1952 (the appeal time is fairly over), when exactly or approximately will the Government make up their mind at all? ”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ As a lawyer, the hon. Member should know that it would take some time to get copies of judgment. As a matter of fact, we have not yet received copies of judgment. The hon. Member might also remember that vacation intervened. ”

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—“ With the decontrol of foodgrains, the availability of rice in any district provides a reliable index of the efficiency of the several procurement officers. On this basis, will the Government assess the inefficiency of the procurement officers and punish those found grossly inefficient by way of dismissal, demotion, etc.? ”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ This is a totally different question. The main question relates to an incident in Tiruchirappalli district. ”

SRI P. THIMMA REDDI :—“ In view of the decontrol of foodgrains, do the Government propose to withdraw all procurement cases, Sir? ”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ I am afraid it does not arise out of this question. ”

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—“ Will the Hon. Minister tell us whether the paddy procured illegally has been given back? ”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ It has been stated by the Subordinate Judge that the paddy was procured illegally. But we intend preferring an appeal against the judgment, if there are grounds for appeal. Therefore, the question does not arise now. ”

AN HON. MEMBER :—“ May I know, Sir, whether all the procurement cases will be withdrawn in all the districts, as decontrol has come into operation? ”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ This question does not strictly arise out of the main question. A separate question may be put. ”

SRI P. V. R. GAJAPATHI RAJU :—“ May I know, Sir, what is the quantum of damages awarded to the lawyer? ”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ About Rs. 600 odd. ”

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SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—“ May I ask the Government, Sir, if they will consider whether this is a fit case for appeal and whether the judgment is fair? Before taking the matter on appeal, will the Government consider awarding suitable punishment to the officers? ”

Short supply of water through the Kommanur Canal.

* 94 Q.—SRI PRAGADA KOTIAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate supply of water is not being made available through the Kommanur canal in Guntur district to the lands in Santaravur section;

(b) whether it is a fact that thousands of acres of wet land in Narsayapalem, Kankatapalem, Kunkalamurru, Karemchedu, Swarna, Santaravur, Timmachinnaganjam are dried up due to the said short supply of water; and

(c) whether the Government have received representations that the original flow of water should be maintained in the Kommanur canal to facilitate irrigation of the said area and if so, the action taken by the Government?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—“ The Government have no information but have called for a report.”

SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO :—“ May I know, Sir, whether the Government are prepared to consider the question of increasing the water-supply in view of the fact that there are many complaints from both sides of the Krishna delta area that the water supplied is not adequate? ”

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—“ A separate question may be put.”

Sale of salt by weight.

* 95 Q.—SRI V. K. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) why the consumers are allowed to purchase salt by measure and not by weight when the Government are collecting duty by weight; and

(b) whether orders have been issued to sell salt by weight and if so, why they are not enforced?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ (a) & (b) The question of introducing the system of retail sale of salt by weight gradually in this State is under consideration. No orders have yet issued direct ing the sale of salt by weight to consumers. In the absence of such orders, the practice of selling salt by measure in retail is still in vogue.”

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ Have not the Government of India issued instructions to the local Government to permit the sale of salt by weight? ”

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ Yes, Sir. They have given discretion to the State Government to fix the date from which that order should take effect. We have not yet fixed any date.”

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—“ Will the Hon. Minister please tell us whether it is not a fact that in Madras rice was sold by weight instead of by measure, as an experimental measure some two or three months back? ”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ This question has nothing to do with the main question. I have, however, no objection to the Hon. Minister answering it.”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ Notice, Sir.”

SRI K. R. SAMBANDAM :—“ Sir, if the Government allow the sale of salt by weight, who will fix the price, is it the Government or the merchant? ”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ I do not know whether there is control over the price of salt. If there is no control, then the Government will not have any hand in it.”

SRI P. V. R. GAJAPATHI RAJU :—“ Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware that a few years back, the Government wanted to standardize weights and measures in the Presidency? I would like to know what steps the Government have taken in the matter.”

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—“ I would suggest to the hon. Member to put a separate question.”

The Malampuzha Project.

* 96 Q.—SRI P. KUNHI RAMA KIDAV : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) why the construction of the Malampuzha Project is slackened; and

(b) when will its construction be completed according to the present plan?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—“ (a) On account of the uncertainty regarding availability of funds, work had to be slowed down in March and again early in June; but now that the Government of India have agreed to give a loan to meet expenditure on the scheme in the current year, work is now in full swing.

“ (b) In 1954.”

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—“ May I know, Sir, whether the function of this Government in relation to this Malampuzha Scheme is only that of an agent, and they are to speed up construction when funds are allotted and to slow down the work when funds run out? ”

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—“ No, Sir.”

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SRI A. APPU :—“ Sir, what is the estimated total cost of the scheme and what is the amount spent so far? ”

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—“ The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 3.8 crores. Up till now, the amount spent is about Rs. 175 lakhs.”

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—“ Sir, since only one crore of rupees has been allotted, will the Government consider taking over Rs. 60 lakhs or Rs. 70 lakhs available with the producer-cum-consumer societies as reserve fund for being utilized in this scheme? ”

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—“ That question does not arise. Now we have got only one crore of rupees.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—“ As the funds allotted to this work are not sufficient to complete the work in this year itself, will the Government consider the question of increasing the funds? ”

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—“ The hon. Member has not understood my reply properly. The scheme is expected to be completed only by 1954. How can we expect the scheme to be completed by the end of 1952? ”

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—“ Sir, if the scheme according to plan is expected to be completed only in 1954, and yet there are chances of completing it earlier than 1954, will the Government not consider its completion earlier, and will they complete the work only in 1954 simply because it is so put down in the plan? ”

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—“ I do not understand the hon. and learned Gentleman's argument that it can be completed in 1952. Perhaps he has a separate plan.”

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—“ May I know, Sir, the cost per acre of the Malampuzha Scheme? ”

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—“ I have not calculated it, but if my friend wants information as to the extent of acreage that will be benefited by the scheme, I am prepared to give it. The existing irrigation is for about 40,000 acres. This scheme is expected to stabilize supply to the existing irrigation area which is 40,000 acres (double-crop land) and bring under new cultivation dry lands to the extent of 5,800 acres; and also facilitate cultivation of second crop on single-crop lands to the extent of 7,100 acres; and third crop on double-crop lands to the extent of 11,350 acres.”

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—“ May I know, Sir, why the project was slowed down when, according to the preliminary account Rs. 2 lakhs less has been spent on the project while, on the Lower Bhavani Project the estimate was exceeded by Rs. 7 lakhs, and still the scheme was pushed through with all vigour? ”

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THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I may inform the hon. Member that the Lower Bhavani Project also was in the same position as the Malampuzha Scheme. The Central Government promised to give some aid so far as the Lower Bhavani Project and the Tungabhadra Project were concerned. Therefore these schemes were not slowed down. So far as the Malampuzha Scheme is concerned, as we had no funds, we had to slow down the project."

SRI R. KRISHNAN :—" May I know, Sir, how many officers were retrenched and how many coolies were thrown out as a result of the slowing down of the Malampuzha Project? When do the Government propose to take them back? When work on the project is started again, will the Government give these workers any preference? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" A separate question may be put in regard to retrenchment and appointment of men. I say that the work is now in full swing."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" Will the Hon. Minister tell us whether the amount that has so far been spent is in proportion to the period of time taken? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I do not understand the hon. Member. Probably he wants to know the amount of work that has been turned out. So far as the dam is concerned, about 60 per cent of the work is done in the masonry portion and 25 per cent in the earth dam portion. So far as canals are concerned, the main canal, which is 20 miles long, has been excavated more or less fully up to the 13th mile. So, about 60 per cent of the canal work has been done. The distributaries are in various degrees of progress, and 12 per cent has been executed. The canal below mile 13 had been aligned and work commenced when funds became available."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Why did the Government allow 1,000 acres of land to be submerged if the scheme is to be completed only in the year 1954? My information on enquiry at the spot was that it was started in 1949, and the authorities, because they thought that it would be completed by 1952, allowed (in March this year) 1,000 acres of land to be submerged. Why did this happen? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I have no information about this. The hon. Member may put a separate question."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Will the Hon. Minister give us an assurance on the floor of the Assembly that till the entire project is completed, enough funds will be allotted, and that there will be no slowing down again? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Any assurance given to-day may not be very useful." (Laughter.)

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Allotment of houses to Government servants.

* 97 Q.—SRI K. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Accommodation Control be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a typist working in the Chief Secretariat was allotted a house of a monthly rental of Rs. 118 while his basic salary was Rs. 63 per mensem;

(b) whether it is a fact that the rent paid by the Government to the landlord at Rs. 118 being higher than the basic salary of the employee for whom the house was allotted, the Government advanced money to the employee concerned to make up the deficit; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the amount advanced as in clause (b) has yet to be recovered from the pay of the employee for eight more years to come?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI:—“(a) In 1948, building No. 10 (portion) Kasi Chetti Lane, Georgetown, Madras, was taken over under the provisions of the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act, and offered to Government servants on rent at Rs. 200 per mensem subject to fixation of fair rent by the Collector of Madras, who was then the Accommodation Control Officer. Sri D. V. Krishniah, typist, Chief Secretariat, whose salary was Rs. 64 per mensem plus Rs. 29 allowances, gave his consent to take it on the above condition and it was allotted to him. The Rent Controller who was moved in the matter fixed the fair rent at Rs. 72 per mensem and when the matter was taken on appeal by the landlord, the Court of Small Causes fixed it at Rs. 118 per mensem later.

“(b) No amount was advanced to the employee to pay his rent. The allottee defaulted in payment and fell in arrears of rent. The landlord filed a suit against the Government, who were the statutory tenants of the building under the Act, for payment of the amount. The amount due to him by the allottee had to be paid from the State Revenues.

“(c) The entire amount paid from the State Revenues had to be recovered from the allottee. The amount outstanding on 1st April last is Rs. 1,316-11-0. On a representation made by Sri Krishniah expressing his inability to pay the entire amount, Government propose to waive half the amount, i.e., Rs. 658-5-6. It will take about four years and seven months to realize the balance from him at the rate of Rs. 12 per mensem.”

11
a.m.

SRI T. NAGI REDDI:—“Sir, the Government having forced the person into a house whose rent it was not possible for him to pay, it will be really still more difficult for him to pay the balance of rent from his pay every month because he is very poor. So, may I know whether the Government will be willing to write off the whole amount due from him?”

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THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI:—“ Sir, nobody forced him into that place. We shall do everything possible in the matter. If I may be permitted to say so, it was perhaps a gamble on the rent being fixed at a reasonable level, and after due consideration, the Government waived half the amount now outstanding.”

DR. K. B. MENON:—“ Were not the Government just as guilty as the person concerned when they allotted the house to him? ”

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI:—“ I do not think the Government can be held to be guilty, because the tenant knew the implications of his commitment. It was very unfortunate that he should have stayed there so long without vacating it and going in for a building carrying a rental which will be within his means.”

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN:—“ Is it a fact that the Accommodation Controller is suffering from an overdose of linguistic love? ”

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI:—“ I cannot understand on what basis he made the allotment.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“ May I know if it is not a fact that this gentleman was forced to live in such a costly house because he was not allotted any other house, and as such, the responsibility lies on the head of the Government? ”

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI:—“ He was not forced to live there. He might not have been given another accommodation. But he had a certain accommodation previously and he could have reverted back to that accommodation. But waiting for a fresh allotment, he continued to stay here.”

SRI M. BAPAI AH CHOWDARY:—“ Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether it is a duty cast on the Government to allot a house to a public servant who is having his own house within the limits of the Madras Corporation? ”

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI:—“ This supplementary question does not arise out of the main question. Therefore, a separate question may be put.”

SRI C. RAJAM RAMASAMI:—“ Are the Government aware that the present system of house rent and accommodation control makes an invidious distinction between Government servants and the public, and may I know whether such a distinction will not amount to undue preference? ”

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THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—“ The Act is there. It gives priority to Government servants. But wherever there is a possibility of accommodating the public we are certainly doing it.”

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—“ Was the person concerned particular about a house? ”

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—“ It is obvious.”

Supply of water to the lands in Kadamba basin of Tiruchendur taluk.

* 98 Q.—SRI K. T. KOSALRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that matured crops on 20,000 acres of paddy lands in Kadamba basin of Tiruchendur taluk, Tirunelveli district, are perishing for want of water;

(b) whether during a similar situation in the past, water was supplied to Kadamba basin from the Papanasam reservoir; and

(c) if so, whether the Government will take immediate steps to supply water to Kadamba basin to save the paddy crops?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—“ (a) Representations were received in the matter.

“ (b) Yes. In 1950.

“ (c) The Chief Engineer (Electricity) at the request of the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) has released 2,000 cusecs of water from the Papanasam Hydro-Electric Reservoir for a period of three days from Monday, the 7th, as a special case.”

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—“ Sir, just now I have received a wire from the Srivaikuntam ryots that they want an additional supply of water. May I know whether the Government will take steps to supply water for two days more, as the supply already given is insufficient? ”

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—“ I may tell the hon. Member that this is a power project and not an irrigation project. As a special case, some water has been allowed. But if the hon. Member thinks that some more water is necessary, he can make a request to the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) and it will be considered.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—“ Is there any special reason for the Government to allow water to this area? ”

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—“ It is a power project. There was some water available, and to save the crops from dying, water has been allowed to be supplied. There are no other special considerations.”

SRI V. V. RAMASAMI :—“ Sir, the Hon. Minister said that the person concerned might approach the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) and get things done. May I know whether he should approach

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the head of the Department alone and not the Minister? Will not the Hon. Minister take cognizance of this appeal? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I may tell the hon. Member that the Minister is certainly competent to take cognizance of the appeal. But if he wants expeditious remedy, it is better to approach the Chief Engineer, and the hon. Member should realize that the Minister himself cannot do anything without consulting the Chief Engineer."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—" May I know how many acres have been benefited by this supply of water? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" The hon. Member may put a separate question."

SRI K. R. SAMBANDAM :—" May I know what steps the Government will take to supply water, as the tail-end mirasdars are suffering due to insufficiency of water? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" A separate question may be put."

Government Bus Service in Madras City.

* 99 Q.—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state what the net profit out of the Government Bus Transport Service in Madras City was in 1951-52?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" A statement showing the actual net profit for the year 1951-52 will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as the accounts for that year have been audited, which has not yet been completed. But roughly, I can say that the profit for 1951-52 for the Government bus service was Rs. 10 lakhs, for the Government Automobile Workshop Rs. 2 lakhs and for the Government Coach Building Factory Rs. 1 lakh."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" In view of the fact that the concern is a profitable one, will the Government try to provide more conveniences to the public by having more buses during rush hours and also extending the service to the surrounding districts? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The profits this year have been extraordinarily good. In previous years, they have not been very good. The running of extra shuttle services to relieve the congestion of passengers will always be considered. The Government have no intention of extending nationalization to the mufassal."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" As the Hon. Minister has told us that this year they have got extraordinarily good profits, will the Government consider paying bonus to the workers? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The question of bonus will have to be considered as a separate issue and not on the question of having made extraordinarily good profits this year."

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SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—“ I am putting the question only on the basis of the extra profits earned this year. The Hon. Minister admits it.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ The hon. Member may give notice of a separate question.”

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—“ In view of the fact that the Madras Bus Transport System has made very good profits this year, will the Hon. Minister consider the possibility of increasing the service to places within the City limits like Kodambakkam, Adyar, etc., because the people there are suffering for want of more buses? ”

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—“ At the present moment, we do run some special buses to Tirupati, Mahabali-puram, Kancheepuram, etc., but the question of running them to places like Kodambakkam depends on the number of passengers that will utilize this bus service. If the hon. Member feels that there will be sufficient number of passengers to utilize this service, I shall certainly consider that request.”

DR. K. B. MENON :—“ Will the Government consider ploughing back part of the profit into the service by improving the conveniences for the passengers? ”

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—“ It is the duty of the Government to provide all conveniences to passengers. But whether it is correct to offer back the profit to the public—in what shape the hon. Member did not say—will have to be considered separately.”

DR. K. B. MENON :—“ I did say that it might be offered back to the public in the form of conveniences in travelling. Buses are not convenient and good. They are shaky and rickety.”

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—“ The hon. Gentleman will admit that the Madras Bus Service is a hundred times better than other services.”

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—“ Will the Government consider fulfilling the promise made at the time of nationalising the Madras Bus Transport Service, to share the profits earned with the Corporation of Madras? ”

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—“ I am not aware of any such promise having been made. But if hon. Gentleman will tell me the date on which that was made, I shall look into it.”

SRI S. PAKKIRISWAMY PILLAI :—“ May I know what is the expenditure incurred on labour in proportion to the total income derived? ”

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—“ The hon. Member may put a separate question.”

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SRI C. RAJAM RAMASAMI :—“ Will the Hon. Minister tell us whether the profit of Rs. 10 lakhs estimated for the year 1951-52 takes into account the interest on the capital invested in the undertaking? ”

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—“ The net profit is generally calculated after all appropriations including interest on the capital and depreciation are taken into account. That is why I said the auditors had not completed their task and I was not able to give the actual figures.”

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—“ The Hon. Minister stated that the question of payment of bonus would have to be considered separately from the profits earned. Do the Government accept the principle that bonus is deferred payment and, therefore, it has got to be considered irrespective of profits? ”

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—“ I am afraid the hon. Gentleman has misunderstood my answer. I am aware of the fact that bonus is always linked with profit but what has been the custom so far and whether in view of extra profits, bonus will have to be increased, are matters for investigation.”

SRI S. S. KOLKEBAIL :—“ Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether any new buses have been purchased during the year 1951-52 and if so, how many? Were any tenders called for for the same? ”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ The hon. Member may put a separate question.”

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—“ May I ask whether the Government will extend the scheme in view of the fact that they have made a profit of more than Rs. 10 lakhs last year? ”

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—“ I should like to know to which place the hon. Gentleman wants the scheme to be extended.”

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—“ To the surrounding districts? ”

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—“ At the present moment, a few buses are running to surrounding areas like Kodambakkam, Perambur and Aiyavaram.”

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“ Will the Hon. Minister think of increasing the frequency of buses on roads leading to the Women and Children's Hospital and the Connemara Library? ”

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—“ In view of the hon. Member's request, I shall certainly consider it.”

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SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—“ Sir, the Hon. Minister in charge of Bus Transport has been a Corporation Councillor for 24 years. He was also the Mayor of the Corporation once. Still he makes the House understand that Kodambakkam is a mufassal place. It is included within the limits of the City of Madras. I have been asking him to increase the bus service to Kodambakkam locality which is a part of the City of Madras. Will the Hon. Minister consider the possibility of running more buses to that locality? ”

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—“ Even now I think buses are running to Palani Andavar temple and to Kodambakkam. If the hon. Gentleman thinks that they are not enough and wants more buses, that is another matter.”

11-15
a.m.

SRI C. H. KANARAN :—“ On a point of order, Sir, the Hon. Speaker is not looking this side at all. So, many of us are not able to get a chance for putting questions.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ I am looking on all sides of the House. In fact, many hon. Members from that side have put questions.”

Disputes between landlords and tenants in Sirkali taluk regarding removal of paddy from the threshing floors.

* 100 Q.—**SRI S. RAMALINGAM** : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representations have been made to the Government through District Officials that a large number of bags of paddy are lying on threshing floors (kalams) in many villages of Sirkali taluk, Tanjore district, due to dispute among mirasdars, waramdars and pannai labourers; and

(b) if so, what steps the Government have taken or propose to take thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—“ The Government have not received any representation through District Officials. In May 1952, certain M.L.As. represented to the Government that owing to disputes between landlords and tenants, a large quantity of paddy was lying idle on threshing floors in some of the villages of Sirkali taluk and that an urgent directive to settle the disputes might be issued to the authorities concerned. From reports obtained from the Collector on the matter, it is observed that in all but one out of the seven cases, the disputes have been amicably settled through the efforts of the district revenue officials and that the entire paddy has been measured and removed from the threshing floors. Government have asked the Collector to continue his efforts for a settlement in the remaining case also.”

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—“ Are the Government aware of the fact that on account of these disputes, a number of persons have been evicted from their lands and houses and if so, may I know what action they propose to take in this matter? ”

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The Government are not aware of what the hon. Member says about evictions."

SRI N. SIVARAJ :—" Do the Government know that a large number of peasants have been evicted from their lands and houses due to these disputes? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I will enquire about it."

SRI K. GOVINDA RAO :—" In view of the fact that there are serious disputes between the inamdars and mirasdars on the one hand and the peasants on the other all over the State and a number of poor peasants are being thrown out of their lands, will the Hon. Minister tell us whether he would come forward with the necessary legislation to protect the interests of the peasants? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The hon. Member is putting a general question. We are at present concerned with the Sirkali taluk."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" May I know what was the duration of the dispute, the quantity of paddy allowed to lie on the threshing floors and whether there was wastage? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" There is no question of wastage, Sir. For a few months, the dispute was pending."

SRI M. BAPAI AH CHOWDARY :—" Will the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether the so-called amicable settlement was in favour of the mirasdars or in favour of the ryots? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" It was a just settlement which was in favour of both."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" May I know whether the Government will be prepared to arrange for a tripartite conference of the mirasdars, peasants and the officials concerned in this connection, so that there may not be any disputes in future between the mirasdars and the peasants? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Sir, apart from the question of conference, I propose to look into the matter and I expect the co-operation of the hon. Member in settling these disputes."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" The Hon. Minister said that three M.L.As. have made certain representations to the Government. May I know what are the views of these gentlemen and what they have said in their representation? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" If the hon. Member wants to know who these M.L.As. are, I think the hon. Member knows much more than myself. With

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regard to the other point, they have reported that there was a dispute between the mirasdars and kisans and that they would like it to be settled."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" Sir, I want to know from the Hon. Minister the nature of the report that has been submitted by these three gentlemen to the Government."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I cannot carry all the details of the report in my head always. The main thing in their report is that there were disputes which ought to be settled."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" May I know whether it is a fact that these poor peasants have been forced to vacate the lands in that area and if so, whether the Government will review the question and protect them? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Yes, Sir. Certainly, the Government will consider the question and see that amicable conditions prevail in the interests of the hon. Member, this side of the House, the other side of the House and in the interests of all."

SRI P. V. R. GAJAPATHI RAJU :—" In answer to Sri Swaminathan's question, the Hon. Minister said that Sri Swaminathan knew the names of three M.L.As. Unfortunately, I am not aware and I am sure a large number of Members in this House are not aware of the names of these gentlemen. Therefore I would like the Hon. Minister to inform us who those M.L.As. are. Secondly, may I know whether the Hon. Minister will give us the assurance that if any other three M.L.As. make a representation or send reports to the Government, that will receive the same consideration from the Government as the report submitted by these three M.L.As.?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I would not fix the minimum number as three. If the hon. Member himself were to make a representation, I would surely consider it. With regard to the names of the three M.L.As., I think the hon. Gentleman may profitably contact the hon. Member Sri Swaminathan who can give the names much more easily than I, as I have to go through the files and find out the names."

SRI V. V. RAMASAMI :—" The Hon. Minister said that only when the representations were received from these M.L.As., the Government were aware of the situation. It was also mentioned in the papers that the Minister might visit that place. May I know whether the officials in that place did not send a report to the Government on the situation; and if so, why? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" At that stage, there was no report from the officials. But, after that, a number of reports are coming day in and day out."

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SRI P. V. R. GAJAPATHI RAJU :—“ I do not know why the Hon. Minister for Revenue is feeling it delicate to name the Members. I think it is his duty to officially inform this House who those Members are, especially when we are discussing the action taken by the Government on the representation submitted by them.”

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—“ I do not feel any delicacy. I do not know the names. I do not wish to give the stock answer ‘ Notice, please ’.”

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—“ Is the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue aware of the fact that the tenants and labourers as a last measure, resorted to social boycott of the mirasdars in that locality and at the instance of some landlords, the Police have arrested nearly 17 labourers in Sirkali? ”

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—“ I am not aware of it. I do not know when the hon. Member shifted his activities from Chingleput to Sirkali.” (Laughter.)

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—“ Is the Hon. Minister aware that the dispute was for the purpose of enforcing an agreement that was reached between two parties in the presence of the District Magistrate in 1948, and may I know whether the Hon. Minister will please tell the House whether the present settlement was on the basis of that agreement or whether any new agreement has been arrived at, and if so what that agreement is? ”

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—“ The present settlement is based more or less on the settlement which is popularly called as ‘ Mayuram Award ’.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ Questions are over.”

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1952-53—cont.

(1) DEMAND XI—DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND MISCELLANEOUS—cont.

*** SRI A. GOVINDASWAMI NAYAGAR :—**“ மதிப்பிற்குரிய தலைவர் அவர்களே, ஜில்லா நிர்வாக மான்யத்தின் மீது கணம் ரெவின्यू மந்திரி அவர்கள் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கும் மான்யக் கோரிக்கையை எதிர்த்து, எதிர்க் கட்சித் தலைவர் ஸ்ரீ டி. விசுவநாதம் அவர்கள் கொண்டுவந்திருக்கும் வெட்டுப் பிரேரணையை ஆதரிக்கும் முறையில் தென் ஆற்காடு ஜில்லா சம்பந்தமாகச் சில விஷயங்களைக் கூற விரும்புகிறேன்.

“ தென்னாற்காடு ஜில்லா ஒரு பிற்போக்கான ஜில்லா. அந்த ஜில்லாவில் நிர்வாகம் ஒரு சில எண்ணிக்கையிலுள்ள முற்போக்குச் சமூகத்தைச் சேர்ந்த ரெட்டியார்கள் கையில் இருந்ததால் அவர்கள் நிர்வாகத்தில் இருந்த காலத்திலிருந்து தென்னாற்காடுக்கு வேண்டிய வசதி எதுவும் செய்யப்படவில்லை. அதே சமயத்தில் பல கெடுதிகளையும் செய்துள்ளனர். ஒமந்தூர் ஸ்ரீ ஓ. பி. ராமசாமி ரெட்டியார் அவர்கள் முதல் மந்திரியாக இருந்த காலத்தில் திண்டிவனத்திலிருந்து ரெட்டி எரியை ஏறையா னாருக்கு வழக்கமாக போய்க்கொண்டிருந்ததை தன் சொந்த கிராமத்திற்கு (ஒமந்தூருக்கு) அக்கிரமமாக அதிகார தோரணையில் புது வாய்க்கால்

[Sri A. Govindaswami Nayagar] [16th July 1952]

வெட்டிக்கொண்டு போய்விட்டார். இது சம்பந்தமாக ஏறையானூர் வன்னியர்களும், ஹரிஜனங்களும் பல கிளர்ச்சி செய்தும் கோர்ட்டில் வழக்கு தொடர்ந்தும் பயனில்லை. நிர்வாகம் அவர் கையில் இருந்த காலத்தில் தென்னாற்காடு ஜில்லாவைப்பற்றி அவர் கவனம் செலுத்தியதேயில்லை.

“அடுத்தபடியாக தென்னாற்காடு ஜில்லாவிலுள்ள கிராமங்களில் பிற போக்கு மக்களும், ஹரிஜன மக்களும் அதிகமிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் இருக்கும் கிராமங்களில் ரோடு வசதி கிடையாது, குடிக்கத் தண்ணீர் வசதி கிடையாது. “Grow More Food Campaign” மூலமாக விவசாய நிலங்களில் விவசாயத்தை அதிகம் உற்பத்தி செய்யவேண்டும் என்பதற்காக விவசாயிகளுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படும் கடன் நிவாரணம் இந்த ஏழை விவசாயிகளுக்குக் கிடைப்பது இல்லை. காங்கிரஸ் ஆட்சி இருந்ததால் அவர்களுடைய கட்சியைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள் தான் தென்னாற்காட்டில் எல்லா கமிட்டிகளிலும் அங்கம் வகித்து எல்லா வசதிகளையும் அடைந்து வந்தார்கள். அதனால் விவசாயக் கடனையும் அதிகம் வாங்கிக்கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். சாதாரணமாக ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கும் பிற்போக்கினத்தவர்களுக்கும் கடன் வசதிகள் கொடுக்கப்படவில்லை, என்பதை இந்த அரசாங்கத்தின் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவர விரும்புகிறேன்.

“இதுவரையில் கடலூர் தாலுகா மருவாய் கிராமத்தில் 13 வருஷ காலமாக விவசாயம் செய்யப்பட்டு வந்த புறம்போக்கு நிலங்களை சர்க்கார் தற்சமயம் எலத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவந்திருக்கும் நிலை ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. காங்கிரஸ் சென்ற தேர்தலில் தோற்றுப்போனதன் காரணமாக இத்தகைய நிர்பந்தத்தை ஷே விவசாயிகளுக்கு ஏற்படுத்தி இப்பொழுது அவ்விதம் எலத்திற்குக் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். புறம்போக்கு நிலங்களை அபிவிருத்தி செய்து உணவை உற்பத்தி செய்யவேண்டும், என்று சர்க்கார் சொல்லிக்கொண்டு வந்ததை விட்டு 13 வருஷ காலத்திற்குப் பிறகு சர்க்கார் அந்த நிலங்களை எலத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவருவது என்றால் அதன் விஷயம் என்னவென்பது தெரியவில்லை. இதில் சர்க்கார் கவனம் செலுத்தவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“பிற்போக்கு இனத்தவர்களுக்கு கிராமங்களில் ஆரம்ப பள்ளிக்கூடங்கள் வைக்கவேண்டும் என்ற விஷயத்தில் சர்க்கார் அதிக கவனம் செலுத்தவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது அவ்விதம் கவனம் செலுத்தாமலிருப்பதால் நாட்டில் அறியாமை அதிகப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. நம் நாடு இப்பொழுது சுதந்தரம் அடைந்துவிட்டது. நம் நாட்டில் எவ்விதம் இந்த அறியாமை இருக்கிறது என்பது சமீபத்தில் தேர்தல் நடந்ததை கவனித்தால் நன்றாகத் தெரிய வரும். சமீபத்தில் நடந்த தேர்தலில் சின்னம் இமைத்த பெட்டியில் அவர்களுடைய வோட்டுகளைப் போடவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லும்போது அவர்களுடைய அறியாமை எப்படி இருக்கிறது என்பது தெரியும். சின்னங்களைக் காட்டி தான் வோட்டுக் கேட்கும் நிலைமையில் நாம் இருக்கிறோம். யாருக்கு வோட்டுப் போடுவது என்பதில்லாமல் மாட்டையும், கோமியையும், பெட்டிகளில் போட்டு அதற்கு வோட்டுக் கேட்கும் நிலைமை நம் நாட்டில் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. மேல் நாடுகளைப்போல் கட்சியின் பெயரைச் சொல்லியும் அபேட்சகரின் பெயரைச் சொல்லியும் வோட்டுக் கேட்கும் முறை இங்கு வரவில்லை. இது அவர்களுடைய அறியாமையைக் காட்டுகிறது என்பது தெரியவில்லையா? இதைப் போக்க வேண்டியது அரசாங்கத்தின் கடமை. ஆகவே இந்நாட்டின் ஆரம்பக் கல்விக்கு வேண்டிய நடவடிக்கைகளை கனம் ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் எடுப்பார்கள் என்று நான் எதிர்பார்க்கிறேன். ஆரம்பக் கல்வியையும், கட்டாயக் கல்வியையும் அமுல் நடத்துவதாக இருந்தால் ஏங்களாலான உதவியைச் செய்ய தயாராய் இருக்கிறோம். கட்டாயக் கல்வியை ஆரம்பித்து பெற்றோர்கள் தங்களுடைய பிள்ளைகளை பாடசாலைகளுக்கு அனுப்பி வைக்காவிட்டால் அவர்களை தண்டிக்கும் முறையில் இதை அமுல் நடத்தும்படியாகக் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“தென்னாற்காடு ஜில்லாவிலிருந்து விளைபொருள்கள் இப்பொழுது வெளி நாடுகளுக்குப் போய்க் கொண்டிருக்கின்றன. புதுச்சேரி தென்னாற்காடுக்குப் பக்கத்திலிருப்பதால் அதன் மூலம் விளை பொருள்கள் அங்கே போய்க் கொண்டிருக்கின்றன. அத்துடன் இன்னும் கொலை, கொள்ளை

16th July 1952]

[Sri A. Govindaswami Nayagar]

முதலியவைகள் நடப்பதற்கும் சௌகர்யமாக இருக்கிறது. அதனால் அந்த புதுச்சேரியை இந்திய யூனியனுடன் சேர்ப்பதற்கு வேண்டிய வழிகளை கனம் ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் மத்திய அரசாங்கத்துடன் கலந்து எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுவார் என்று எதிர் பார்க்கிறேன். அதைத் தவிர இந்த மதுவிலக்குத் திட்டம் கூட இன்னும் அதிக வெற்றிகரமாக நடக்கும். இப்பொழுது அங்கிருந்து மதுபானங்களை இங்கு திருட்டுத்தனமாகக் கொண்டு வருவதற்கு சௌகர்யமாக இருக்கிறது. அதை இந்தியாவுடன் சேர்த்து விட்டால் இந்த மதுவிலக்குத் திட்டம் கூட வெற்றிகரமாக நடக்கும். அத்துடன் தென்னாற்காட்டின் செல்வம் மேல் நாட்டிற்குப் போகாமல் இருக்க வழி ஏற்படும். இதை கனம் ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் கவனத்தில் வைத்துக் கொண்டு அதற்கு வேண்டிய நடவடிக்கைகளை எடுத்துக் கொள்ளுவார் என்று எதிர் பார்க்கிறேன்.

“இப்பொழுது தென்னாற்காடு ஜில்லாவில் குடி தண்ணீர் கிடை யாது. கள்ளக்குறிச்சி, திருக்கோயிலூர், விழுப்புரம், திண்டிவனம் தாலுக்காக்களில் உள்ள கிராமங்களில் இப்பொழுது குடி தண்ணீர் வசதி கிடையாது. குடிக்கின்ற தண்ணீர் கூட புழுக்கள் நிறைந்து இருக்கின்றன. இன்னும் அங்கெல்லாம் சுகாதாரம் கூட குறைவாக இருக்கிறது. ஜனங்களுக்கு “நாம்புச் சிலந்தி” என்ற ஒருவித வியாதி கூட வருகிறது. அதனால் அநேகம் பேர்கள் பாதிக்கப்படுகிறார்கள். அந்த வியாதிக்கு எந்த விதமான மருந்தும் கிடையாது. அதனால் மக்கள் ரொம்பவும் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள் என்ற விஷயத்தை சர்க்காருடைய கவனத் திற்குக் கொண்டுவர விரும்புகிறேன்.

“தென்னாற்காடு ஜில்லா அதிகாரிகளின் போக்கைப் பற்றி சில விஷயங் களைக் குறிப்பிட விரும்புகிறேன். நெல்லிக்குப்பத்தில் கண்ணன் என்கிற ஒரு காங்கிரஸ்காரர் மஜித் என்பவரை கொலை செய்துவிட்டு தானே சப்-இன்ஸ்பெக்டரிடம் போய் கொலை செய்ததை ஒப்புக்கொண்டும் அவனை பண்ணுருடடி மாஜிஸ்ட்ரேட் விடுதலை செய்துவிட்டார். என்னன்றால் அவன் ஒரு காங்கிரஸ்காரன் என்பதற்காக. அப்படி கொலை செய்தவன் ஒரு தியாகி. ஐந்து ஏக்கர் நிலம் வாங்கிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறான். அவன் தன் னுடைய குற்றத்தை ஒப்புக்கொண்டும் கூட அவனை விடுதலை செய்து மாஜிஸ்ட்ரேட் தீர்ப்புக் கூறியிருக்கிறார். எந்தக்கட்சி ஆட்சியில் இருக்கிறதோ அந்தக் கட்சிக்கு சௌகர்யம் செய்ய வேண்டுமென்ற மனப்பான்மை இப்பொழுது அதிகாரிகளிடம் இருக்கிறது. இதில் சர்க்கார் கொஞ்சம் கவனம் செலுத்த வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். தென்னாற் காட்டிலுள்ள பல ஊழல்களுக்கு இந்த அதிகாரிகள் தான் காரணம். கட்சி மனப்பான்மை தான் இந்த ஊழல்களுக்குக் காரணமாக இருக்கின் றது. இதைத்தான் பொது மக்கள் வெறுக்கிறார்கள். Training ஸ்கூ லுக்கு செலக்ஷன் செய்யவேண்டுமென்றால், அந்தக் கமிட்டியிலும் காங்கிரஸைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். எல்லா இடங்களிலும் அவர்கள் அங்கம் வகிக்கிறார்கள். காங்கிரஸ் தலைவரும், காரியதரிசியும் தோற்றுப் போயும் கூட அவர்கள் இன்னும் கமிட்டியில் இருக்கிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது நடந்த தேர்தலில் தென்னாற்காடு ஜில்லாவில் 19 ஸ்தானங்களில் 14 இடங் களில் காங்கிரஸ் தோல்வி அடைந்திருக்கிறது. ஐந்து இடங்களில் வெற்றி யடைந்திருக்கிறார்கள். முற்போக்கில் இருக்கும் அரசியல் அதிகாரிகள் பிற் போக்கினத்தவர்களையும், ஹரிஜனங்களையும், புறக்கணித்ததால் தான் இந்தத் தோல்வியை அடைந்தார்கள். இனியாவது அவர்கள் தெரிந்து கொள்ள வேண்டுமென்று தான் இந்த விஷயங்களை நான் எடுத்துச் சொல்லு கிறேன்.

“ஹரிஜனங்கள் வாழ்கின்ற பிற்போக்கான இடங்களில் ஆரம்ப பாட சாலைகளை அமைக்க வேண்டும். தென்னாற்காடு ஜில்லாவிலுள்ள ஹை ஸ்கூல்களில் சேர்த்துக் கொள்ளப்படும் பின்னிகள் மிக் மிகக் குறைவு. ஒவ்வொரு தாலுகாவிற்கும் ஓர் ஹை ஸ்கூல் இருந்தாலும் போதாது. பிர்க்காவிற்கு ஒரு ஹை ஸ்கூல் இருந்தால் தான் கல்வியைப் பரப்ப முடியும். இப்பொழுது தென்னாற்காடு ஜில்லாவில் ஒரு University தான் இருக்கிறது. அந்த Universityயிலும் கூட ஆந்திர தேசத்

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திலிருந்தும், மலையாள தேசத்திலிருந்தும் மாணவர்கள் சேர்க்கப்படுகிறார்கள். தென்னாற்காடு ஜில்லாவில் படித்த மாணவர்கள் சென்னையில் சர்டிபிகேட் புத்தகத்தை வைத்துக்கொண்டு கர்லேஜுக்கு காலேஜ் செல்லுகிறார்கள். அப்படி அலைந்தும் அவர்களுக்கு சென்னையில் இடம் கிடைக்கவில்லை. பிற்போக்கினத்தவர்களைக் கவனிப்பதற்கு வேண்டிய வசதியில்லாமல் இருக்கிறது. இந்த விஷயத்தில் சர்க்கார் அதிகக் கவனம் செலுத்த வேண்டும். பிற்போக்கு இனத்தவர்களுக்கு காலேஜ்களில் படிப்பதற்கு இடம் கிடைக்கும்படி வசதி செய்து கொடுக்க வேண்டியது அரசாங்கத்தின் கடமை. இதில் அவர்களும் கவனம் செலுத்துவார்கள் என்று எதிர்பார்க்கிறேன்.

“இன்னும் ஹரிஜன ஹாஸ்டல்களை நடத்துவதற்கு அனுமதி கொடுக்கப்படவில்லை. இந்த நிலைமையை நீக்குவதற்கு அரசாங்கம் வேண்டியதைச் செய்ய வேண்டும். இப்பொழுது ஜில்லாக்களிலிருந்துதான் அதிகமாக வரி வசூல் செய்கிறார்கள். அவ்விதம் வரி வசூல் செய்வதால் ஏழைகளுக்கு வேண்டியதைச் செய்து கொடுக்க வேண்டும். பொது மக்களுக்கு ஏராளமான நன்மைகளைச் செய்து விட்டு தான் அவர்களிடமிருந்து இந்த வரிகளை வசூலிக்க வேண்டும். வரி வரி என்று மட்டுமே போட்டுக் கொண்டிருந்தால் போதாது. அவர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய நன்மைகளைச் செய்ய வேண்டும் என்றும், அரசாங்கம் அதற்கு தகுந்த நடவடிக்கைகளை எடுத்துக் கொள்ள வேண்டுமென்றும் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு நான் வெட்டுப் பிரேரணையை ஆதரிக்கிறேன்.”

11-30
a.m.

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this Demand there is an item ‘Discretionary grants by Collectors’. A grant of Rs. 62 thousand has been allotted for this item. On page 75 of the Budget Memorandum, it has been stated that these discretionary grants are given to the District Collectors to be spent at their discretion for general purposes of a public nature calculated to be of benefit to their districts, e.g., the construction and improvement of public baths and bathing places, culverts and bridges on village cart-tracks, wells or other sources of drinking water for the poorer classes, etc. Sir, I have had occasion to tour some of the districts in the South and I know my district well as I have toured the whole district. But I never came across any village which has been provided with public baths or culverts and bridges on village cart-tracks. I want to know whether this grant is merely a show or is really intended to confer any benefit on the poor people. I hope the Hon. Minister, in his reply, will answer this point. So far as my knowledge goes, the Collectors have not spent at their discretion any amount for providing facilities to the villagers.

“Then, I come to the item ‘Expenditure from rural reconstruction grants’. I do not see any achievement of the Government in the matter of rural reconstruction. Our villages are still in the same condition. They are lacking in modern facilities. I do not expect the Government to provide the villagers with such modern facilities, as are now enjoyed by the people living in cities and towns. The other day I pointed out how the roads in the Ramanathapuram district have been neglected; and particularly in my constituency comprising the Kalayarkoil firka, within a radius of 20 miles, there is no road. There is no facility for drinking water. There is no hospital. There is no school. All these facilities have been lacking there and I want to bring this to the notice of the Hon. Minister

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for Revenue in the hope that he will look into the matter. It is high time the Government took interest in the welfare of the villages and improved their condition by providing the necessary facilities. Our idea must be to connect each village with another. Now, even for villages within an area of more than 10 to 20 square miles, there is no road. Government should also see that every village is provided with facilities for drinking water.

“ Sir, a group of villages has been placed under the charge of a headman. I know that even about 10 to 20 villages have been grouped together and placed in charge of a headman. This involves heavy work and the headman is not able to attend to the interests of all the villages properly. There are headmen who have only one or two villages under them. I hope the Government will look into this matter. In this connexion, I must recall what happened at the time of the elections. At that time, a number of villages had been grouped together for election purposes and polling booths were located at places more than five miles away from the place of the voters. People were forced to walk the whole distance and the appeals made by us to the election authorities and the Election Commission were of no avail. Therefore, a number of villages should not be grouped and there should be readjustment in the matter of grouping of villages or for that matter even in regard to taluks and districts. Sir, a proposal had been submitted to the Government long ago that the headquarters of the Ramanathapuram district should be shifted from Madurai to the Ramanathapuram district itself. There was a lot of agitation carried on in the district. Recently, a proposal was made to the Government that a place between Manamadurai and Sivaganga should be selected for creating a township, with a view to locate the headquarters there. I do not know whether the Government will approve this proposal as this involves expenditure of a huge sum to the tune of about Rs. 10 lakhs. Sir, there was also a suggestion to merge the Ramanathapuram district in the adjoining districts of Madurai, Tiruchirappalli and Tirunelveli. Of course, I know the agitation carried on by some people in Pudukkottai against the merger of their State in the district of Tiruchirappalli, on the ground that Tiruchirappalli district by itself is a big district. Sir, all these proposals present difficulties but I hope the Hon. Minister for Revenue will consider these proposals and come to a final decision in the near future and redistribute the areas and fix the limits of the districts once again.

“ Now, I come to Community Projects. While selecting the places for Community Projects in our State, the Government should consider whether they will confer any benefit on the backward areas. As it is, these projects have been located in districts which have already been developed and advanced in many spheres of life. They have not been located in backward districts like Ramanathapuram. I want that the Ramanathapuram district should have one Community Project and it should be located in Sivaganga taluk. The Hon. Chief Minister while answering a supplementary question I put to him, said that it would be very

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difficult to give this district a Community Project, but since my district is a backward area, I hope he will reconsider his decision."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" On a point of information, Sir. The hon. Member was speaking about ' Communist ' projects and I want to know what he means by that."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" On a point of personal explanation, Sir. The hon. Member Mr. Ramamurthi, being an ardent Communist, is always thinking about Communism and Communists. Even if I talk about Community Projects, he thinks that I am talking about ' Communist ' Projects."

* SRI K. VENKAIAH :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I speak on the actual Demand, let me say a few words about the present District Administration and how it functions. The present district administration is suffering from the diseases of corruption, bureaucracy, nepotism and favouritism. Yesterday, the Hon. Chief Minister, while answering a point raised in the debate, assured this House that he was going to eradicate corruption and see that the efficiency of the administration was improved. Whether this promise is an empty promise or a promise which will be fulfilled, we have to see. Sir, corruption is rampant among village officers. We have got about 22,000 village karnams and assistant karnams. Leaving out a handful of them, almost all of them are corrupt. There are also about 24,000 village headmen or munsifs and many of them are corrupt. Yesterday, the Hon. Chief Minister took exception to the statement that there is corruption and that it is rampant among officials. I say, corruption is rampant.

" Now, Sir, I come to the activities in the villages. Neither this Government nor the Central Government are taking care of the poor and unfortunate peasants and poor agricultural labourers. Leaving aside the agrarian reforms and other reforms, there are some ordinary reforms connected with the existing administration which can be implemented easily. You know that at present there are about 265,000 acres of *poramboke* lands which are being cultivated by agricultural labourers and landless poor, but pattas are not given to them for these lands. I know some cases where people who have been cultivating the land for the last 42 years have not been given any pattas. For instance, in Rentachintala, one Mr. Luku who has been cultivating *poramboke* land for the last 42 years applied for patta but no assignment has been made. This is not the only instance; there are so many instances of that type in other places also.

11-45 a.m. " The Nallampada *poramboke* is there; landless labourers have been cultivating it for the last fifteen to twenty years; but yet no assignment is made to them of those lands. The Romperu *poramboke* is there; it is being cultivated by landless labourers for the last ten years; but yet no assignment is made to them of those lands. All this because the village karnams have the authority to issue or recommend the issue of B Form orders. But since they are corrupt, they are forcing the peasants and landless labourers

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to pay them money for issue of B form orders. Sir, this Government are not bold enough to issue orders to immediately assign lands to landless labourers.

" Sir, if this Government want really to improve the administration in the State, they should first eradicate corruption. This can be done only by checking corruption at both ends. I shall explain what I mean by it. We have to consider it from the point of view of the bribe-giver and the bribe-taker. The bribe-giver is there because of the force of circumstances. I understand recently the Central Government have come forward with a proposal to make bribe-giving an offence of a substantive nature. It is very dangerous to make it an offence. For there are many reasons why the peasant or agricultural labourer could not give evidence against a village karnam. If bribe-giving is made an offence, nobody will come forward and give evidence. The result will be that there will be no case of corruption coming to light. In that case, how can our Hon. Chief Minister eradicate the corruption evil? In reality, it will be existing. For, it is due to the force of circumstances that a man has to offer bribes; but it will not come to light. So, unless Government come forward with bold measures to give land to landless labourers, that is, to give land to the tiller of the soil, there is no solution for this problem.

" Again, if corruption is to be eradicated on the side of the bribe-taker, we have to take into consideration certain facts. In villages, the karnams are getting a salary of only Rs. 13 and odd, and some village munsifs are getting a salary of Rs. 10 only. I am told in some cases, i.e., in estates, the village munsif is getting a salary of Rs. 10-4-0. In such cases where there is no likelihood of their getting a decent salary, they cannot exist in this world with this job; and so they look to other means of earning money. In addition to this, British Imperialism has created such a state of affairs in the village that to-day karnams and village munsifs have become a pest on society. If only these institutions are removed and in their place, an elected committee or a village panchayat, or some other committee, is constituted to discharge the present duties of the karnam and village munsif, bribe-taking can be eradicated. Or, these karnams and munsifs should be kept under the thumb of such a committee. Without the co-operation of the people, without the initiative being there from the side of the people, corruption cannot be eradicated.

" Next, Sir, I want to say a few words about bureaucracy. I can show many instances where district officials refuse to go into the just grievances of peasants and workers. Sir, when our Hon. Chief Minister made the statement that there should be no interference from M.L.As. in local administration, there was a great change in the attitude of the District Collectors. After that statement, the District Collectors refuse to give interviews even to people who go to him as representatives of the people. Not only that. The district officials, to win the favour of the Government,

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do not implement the Government Orders in full. They implement only that part of the Government Orders which is necessary to save their interest or to get into the favour of Government."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member has one minute more."

* SRI K. VENKAIAH :—" Sir, in view of these things, if corruption is to be eradicated and the general tone of the administration is to be improved, Government should take the people into their confidence and see that there is a change in the attitude of the officials. Only then can corruption be eradicated. The Hon. Chief Minister has not taken this factor into consideration but has given only an empty promise. So, Sir, I request the House to vote down this Demand."

* JANAB K. M. SEETHI :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, the district of Malabar, from which I am returned is neglected in almost all matters of civic life and that has been the common complaint from most of the Members who have been returned from Malabar. The points that we desired to urge upon the Government have been mentioned in the cut motion tabled under this Demand by us. They relate to the general complaint regarding the supply of the amenities of civilized life to the people of the district. The district has been very much neglected in the matters of road, hospitals, bridges and maternity centres. There is an all round complaint that the Government have not been fair to the district in the matter of providing these amenities of existence.

" One important point referred to by us in our cut motion is that relating to the condition of the islands which are attached to the Malabar district and South Kanara district. Sir, you know the Laccadives and the Minicoy islands are attached to the Malabar and South Kanara districts respectively. The condition of the people in those islands is deplorable indeed. Even now, the laws promulgated and enforced on the mainland have not been made applicable to these islands. The Civil Procedure Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, and the Indian Penal Code, which are in force on the mainland, are not applicable to those islands. It is some old Regulation of 1840 or so which is being enforced there. There are certain very primitive customs recognized by the Government, which have been prevailing there all these years. One section of the people is not allowed to carry on certain avocations. For instance, one section of the people is not permitted to build cargo boats to carry their goods for sale. If they build their own boats, the other section of the people destroy them and prevent them from carrying on trade. When complaints are made about these things to the Collectors concerned, they express their helplessness in the matter; for according to the old Regulations, certain sections of the people could not carry on trade in their own boats; and those boats could be built only by persons who are given a monopoly in that matter. Sir, this only shows that, in these islands, civilized life has not been made possible for the people. You will be surprised to learn, Sir, that there is no arrangement there to enforce law and order. No police force is posted there;

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medical aid has not been made available except in a very unsatisfactory way. The arrangements made for education are far from satisfactory. On the whole, these islands are considered as Scheduled Areas and they are cut off from all civilized life. The islanders deserve our sympathy. With the ushering in of the Republic of India, it was believed that all the laws prevailing on the mainland would be made applicable to these islands. I would like to hear from the Government whether after the advent of our Republic any change has come about in the application of the laws enforced there and whether the laws prevailing on the mainland will prevail in these islands also. I wish to draw the pointed attention of the Hon. Minister to this fact and to request him to set matters right, for there is no reason for making a distinction between the mainland and these islands. It will be a great relief to me to see that this barbarous distinction kept up between the mainland and these islands so long is done away with once for all.

“ Sir, the other purpose mentioned in our cut motion is the need to establish some means of communication, say, by a steamer service between the mainland and these islands. Great difficulties are experienced by these islanders in coming to the mainland and carrying on trade. You will be surprised to learn, Sir, that there are restrictions placed on the sale of goods produced by these islanders. Under the law in force there, the people there can sell the things they bring to the mainland under barter only. They cannot have a free sale of their goods. They can only barter their goods in exchange for certain goods from the mainland. It is primitive custom. I want to know whether this barbarous custom has been removed now.

“ Now, Sir, coming to the needs of the district of Malabar itself, the immediate needs of the district should be attended to urgently. There is a general complaint from several parts of the district about the failure of the Police to detect serious and heinous crimes. There are some murder cases which have not been detected by the Police. On account of that, there is great discontent and dissatisfaction among the people. In Manjeri firka of the Ernad taluk, there were recently two murders. The Police were not able to detect these crimes. One of them, the Valluvampara murder case about which there were frequent references in the local newspapers, remains undetected. The general impression is that violent crimes are on the increase in the Malabar district and the Police are not successful in detecting these crimes. There was a complaint of Police excess recently from Perintalman, where the Police took two or three persons into custody and subjected them to torture on the suspicion that they were implicated in an alleged assault on a certain person. These are barbarous methods which should not be allowed to continue. I want greater attention to be paid by the Police to detect crimes in my district. They should also be warned that if they committed excess, they would be brought to book and punished seriously.”

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noon.

SRI K. RAMAIAH CHOWDARY:—“అధ్యక్షా, ప్రస్తుతము జిల్లా పరిపాలనను గురించి మాట్లాడుటకు అవకాశమిచ్చియున్నారు. ఆసలు, దీనికంటే ప్రభుత్వ పరిపాలనా విధానాన్ని గురించి మాట్లాడితే చాలా సబబుగా ఉంటుంది అని నా అభిప్రాయము. నిజంగా ఈ శాసన సభ్యులయొక్క భవనమునుంచి, ఇక్కడ ఉన్నటువంటి, కట్టుబాట్లతో ప్రజలకు విపాటి సౌకర్యాలు, విపాటి మేల్లు శాసన సభ్యులవల్ల కలుగుతున్నాయో అలోచించుకోవచ్చు. ఈ రోజు ఇక్కడ ప్రజా ప్రతినిధులమైనటువంటి, ప్రజల కష్టసుఖాలను తెలియచేయవలసినటువంటి శాసన సభ్యులమైన మనలను అనగా ప్రజాసౌకార్యంతోనే ఆ గోడమీద ఉన్నటువంటి గడియారము ఆ బుల్లమీద ఉన్నటువంటి గంట పరిపాలిస్తున్నదని చెప్పవలసియున్నది. ఆ గడియారములో పది నిమిషాలు కాగానే బుల్లమీద ఉండే గంట మ్రోగుతుంది. వెంటనే ప్రజల తరఫున చెప్పుకుంటున్న వంటి సభ్యుడు వారుచూసికొని హార్వీవలసియుంటుంది. ఈ విధమైన పద్ధతిలో శాసన సభ్యులు ఏ రీతిగా ప్రజల కష్టసుఖాలు పుష్కలంగా తెలియజేసి, వారికి ఏమి చేయవలెనో అలోచించవలసియుంటుంది. ఈ శాసన సభ్యులకు ప్రజల స్థితిగతులు చెప్పుకోడానికిగానూ స్వాతంత్ర్యము లేకపోవడముచే ఇది చాలా శోచనీయమైన విషయం. ఇటువంటి పరిపాలనా వ్యవస్థగూర్చి, ప్రతి సభ్యుడుకూడా తన నియోజక వర్గపు ప్రజల కష్టసుఖాలను యథాతథంగా చెప్పుకోడానికి ఎప్పుడైతే సర్వ స్వాతంత్ర్యాన్ని కలుగజేస్తారో, ఆ రోజే పరిపాలన సక్రమమైందని, ప్రజాస్వామిక రిధానానికి అనుగుణంగా ఉన్నదని అనడానికి నీలుంటుందని తెలియజేస్తున్నాను. ఈ రోజు పరిపాలనావ్యవస్థ, వివిధ డిపార్టుమెంటులు ఎలా ఉన్నాయో అలోచిద్దాము. ఒక మాంత్రికుడు ప్రపంచాస్త్రంతా హస్తగతం చేసుకోవాలనే అనిపించినంత, తన మంత్ర బలముతో ఒక పెనుభూతాన్ని తయారుచేస్తే ఆ భూతానికి కావలసినంత ఆహారము పెట్టి లేకపోవడంవల్ల దానిని దేశముమీద వదలివేడటం. ఆ రీతిగానే ఈ రోజు ప్రభుత్వము, డిపార్టుమెంటు ప్రజలను పీడించుకొని తింటున్నాయి. ప్రజలు ఏ సా పీడితులై యున్నటువంటి దుర్వస్త విర్రడింది. ఆ సృష్టించిన సృష్టికర్తకుగూడ ఈ పరిపాలనలోని అసీతిని నిర్మూలించుటకు సాధ్యముగనుపట్టున్నది. పోతే, ఈ రోజు నిజంగా, పరిపాలనా విధానాన్ని కొంత అలోచిద్దాము. పూర్వము కాంగ్రెస్ సంస్థకు ఎవరైతే పట్టుగొమ్మలుగా ఉండినారో వారినే ఇప్పుడు రాజగోపాలాచారిగారు community projects కు దైర్యంగా నియమించిన విధానము చూస్తే, ఈ community projects వల్ల విపాటి మార్పులుగాని, సత్ఫలితాలుగాని కలుగుటకు అవకాశము లేదు. ఇంక, ఉద్యోగస్థుల విషయముచూస్తే, ప్రజలు ఉద్యోగస్థుల దగ్గరకుపోతే, వారు ప్రజలను ఏమాత్రం గౌరవించడంలేదు. ప్రజలు ఏ చిన్న పనికికూడా ఆసీనులకు వదేవదే తిరగవలసియుంటుంది. ఉద్యోగస్థులు వీరిని విచారించడంలేదు. వారితో ఏమాత్రము గౌరవముతోగాని దయతోగాని మాట్లాడడం లేదు, అంతటితోగాక, వారిని కర్తవ్యం మైసటువంటి మాటలతో గడిరిస్తూయింటారు. ప్రజాసౌకర్యమువల్లనే గదా ప్రజలు, దేశము బాగవడుతుందని వీరు గ్రహించడంలేదు. P.W.D. డిపార్టుమెంటు, రివిన్యూ డిపార్టుమెంటు శత్రువుకొనించి శత్రువు అయినాయని శ్రీరాజగోపాలాచారిగారు అన్నారు. కాని, దానికి ప్రభుత్వము, మంత్రులే కారణమని చెప్పవలసియుంటుంది. ఇక రివిన్యూ డిపార్టుమెంటు విషయము గురించి అలోచిద్దాము. హరిజనులకు సాగ చేసుకొనడానికిగాను భూమి నిచ్చేటట్టు 4 సంవత్సరముల క్రిందనే ఆర్డర్లు పంపినా రివిన్యూ ఉద్యోగస్థులు ఈ ఆర్డర్లను అమలు జరపకుండా అట్టినే కాలము గడుపుచున్నారు. బీదవారైనటువంటి హరిజనులు ఆ ఉద్యోగస్థులకు లంచాలు ఇవ్వలేకపోవడమే దీనికి ముఖ్య కారణము. హరిజనులకు సాగుచేయడానికి భూమి ఇవ్వవలసిందని

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అర్ధశతాబ్దముగాని, వారు దున్నేందుకుపోతే, గ్రామ తెల్లనందార్లు వారిని పరిమి వేస్తారు. తరువాత ఒక రివిన్యూ ఆఫీసులో ఒక Head clerk 15 సంవత్సరముల నుంచి అక్కడ నేయున్నాడు. అతడు చాలాపు ఈసాటికి 50 వేల రూపాయలు లంచము తీసుకొనియుంటాడు. అతనిని అక్కడనుండి మార్చవలసిందని 7 సంఖ్యగా అందోళన చేస్తున్నప్పటికినీ, అతనిని కడలించకుండా ఉన్నారు. అతనిని మారినే గాని ఆ తాలూకా రైతులు వాగుడరు, ఆ తాలూకాలోని వాగుపడదు అని ప్రజలు చెప్పుకొన్నాకూడ, వారి మొరను అలకించేటటువంటివారు లేరు. ఒక వేళ విన్నాకూడ, దానిని పట్టించుకోవడం లేదు.

“పోతే, ఇక P.W.D. డిపార్టుమెంటు విషయము ఆలోచిద్దాము. ఏ పనికి కూడ ఇంజనీర్లకు లంచము ఇవ్వండి పని జరగడంలేదు. లంచానికి తగినట్లు ఉంటుంది ఆ పనిసూడాను, మా జిల్లాలో ఒకచోట బ్రిడ్జికి 3 వేల రూపాయల ఖర్చుతో కట్టినై, ఆ బ్రిడ్జి పైన మనుష్యులు నడిచేందుకునూడా కట్టముగా ఉంటుంది. అది మూడు అడుగుల వెడల్పుతో కట్టినారు. ఈ ప్రకారము అనేక పనులలోకూడ, ఈ ఇంజనీర్లకు లంచాలు ఇవ్వవలసినవిచ్చినందువలన ఆ పనులకు వెట్టవలసినంత డబ్బు ఖర్చు వెట్టక పనులు లోపభూయిష్టంగా ఉంటాయి. చెరువులను investigation చేయవలసియుంటే, ఈ ఇంజనీర్లకు 30 రూపాయలినై 3 వేల రూపాయలకు, 60 రూపాయలినై, 6 వేల రూపాయలకు వెయ్యి రూపాయలినై, లక్ష రూపాయలకు estimates వేస్తూయుంటారు. నెల్లూరు జిల్లాకు సంబంధించినంతవరకు, అక్కడ ఒక కరువు రోడ్డు ప్రారంభించారు. అయితే, అది కరువు రోడ్డు, కరువుకోసమని చెప్పి, లంచాల వల్ల ప్రజలకు అవకాశములేకుండా ఎక్కడో అడవులలో దూరమువేశారు. ఈ మాదిరి చేయడంవల్ల ప్రజలకు చాలా కష్టముగాయుంటుందని ఈ పరిస్థితులలో మీరు రోడ్డు వేస్తున్నారని కర్షకులకుకూడా చెప్పుకొన్నారు. కాని మీ జరగలేదు. ఇటీవల ఉదయగిరి తాలూకాలో కరువు పనులు పూర్తిగా నిలిపివేశారని, అప్పులివ్వడము కూడా పూర్తిగా నిలిపివేశారని, జమీందారీ గ్రామాలన్నాకూడా అప్పులు ఇవ్వడంలేదని, మరియు గండి కేంద్రాలుకూడా నిబువుదల చేశారని, ఈ రోజే నాకు జాబు వచ్చింది. కర్షకుగారు గండికేంద్రాలు ఆట్టే ఉంచుతాము అని చెప్పారుగాని, చెప్పేది ఒకటి ఆరుసరించే పుద్ధిని ఇంకొకటి. అంత దూరము పోవలసిన పనిదు, ఆ నెంబ్లిలోనే మంత్రులు చెప్పేది ఒకటి, చేసేది ఒకటి. అలాంటప్పుడు క్రింద ఉద్యోగములు అలా నడచుకొంటున్నారంటే అశ్వర్యము లేదు. ఇటీవల గౌరవనీయులైనటువంటి ప్రధాన మంత్రిగారిని ఆసెంబ్లీలో అప్రోప్రియేట్ వారు ఆంధ్ర రాష్ట్రము గురించి కేంద్ర ప్రభుత్వానికి విమి వ్రాసింది తెలుపమని అడగగా, వారు విమి వ్రాసింది చెప్పటకు నిరాకరించారు. ఈ విషయము గురించి విమి వ్రాసిందిన్నీ నారు చెప్పటకు నిరాకరించారంటే, తప్పకుండా ఆంధ్ర రాష్ట్రమువద్దనే వ్రాసియుంటారని భావించవలసియుంటుంది. మున్నటి రోజు నైరూపతికా విలేజరుల గోష్టిలో Working Committee లో ‘ఒక భాగ్యతరల మద్రాసు వ్యక్తి ఆంధ్ర రాష్ట్రము విరుద్ధితే రక్షణాతము అత్తుతుందని వ్రాశారు’ అని అన్నాడు. ఇదంతా చూస్తే మన మంత్రులు ఇక్కడ మనకు చెప్పేది ఒకటి చేసేది ఒకటి అనే భావించవలసియుంటుంది. ఇటువంటి విధానములో ప్రభుత్వ విధానము కోసపాగుకూంది. కాకపోతే ఈనాడు కాసన సభ్యులు ఇక్కడ చేయగలిగిందల్లా వారికి నియమించుకుంటుంటే క్లుప్త కాలములో 10 నిమిషాలు వాగడము, రోజుకు గూ 12-8-0 లు తీసుకోవడం తప్ప ప్రజలకు ఏమీ చేయలేకున్నారు. అంతా ప్రభుత్వ politics క్రింద జరిగిపోతూయన్నది. కనుక, నిజంగా పరిపాలనా విధానంలో సరియైన మార్పురావాలంటే, ప్రతి జిల్లాకు ఒక అసభికార కమిటీని వేసి,

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12-15 ఆ కమిటీలలో అన్ని చార్జీలవారికి అవకాశమిచ్చి, ఆ కమిటీకి ఆ జిల్లా యొక్క వ్యవస్థాపకం అంతు పట్టించబడింది. ఈ మాదిరి ప్రభుత్వము చేస్తే సేగాని, ప్రజల మీద ఈ ఉద్యోగస్తుల దౌర్జన్యాలు, corruption మొదలగు అక్రమాలు పోజాలవని చెప్పుచున్నాను.

“తరువాత ఇంకొక విషయమున్నది. బాంబాయి, నెల్లూరు రోడ్డులో ఒక కోనేరు ఉన్నది. దానికి కట్టే బ్రిడ్జి, ప్రజలకే కాకుండా ఇర్రిగేషన్ కు ఉపయోగపెట్టాలి అని ప్రజలు అంటున్నారు. ఇంజనీరు వేరొకచోట కట్ట ప్రయత్నించారు. ఆ విషయము మంత్రులకుకూడ చెప్పారు. కాని మంత్రులు ప్రజలకు ఇంజనీరింగు విమి తెలుసును అంటారు. ఈ విధంగా ఆ బ్రిడ్జి ఇర్రిగేషన్ కు ప్రయోజనానికిగూడించి ఉపయోగపడనీయకుండా వృథాగా పోనిస్తున్నారు.

“ఉదయగిరి తాలూకాలో మర్రిగుంట్లవాగు ఉన్నది. దీనివల్ల ప్రజలకు చాలా నష్టము కలుగుచున్నది. దీని విషయములోకూడా ప్రభుత్వము విమి శ్రద్ధ తీసుకోకుండా ఉన్నది. మేము మంత్రులకు, ప్రధాన మంత్రిగారికి వివిధ ఉద్యోగస్తులకు కూడా wires ఇచ్చాము. కాని ఎవరుకూడ విమి శ్రద్ధ తీసుకొనడం లేదు. ఈ ప్రకారము ప్రభుత్వము, మంత్రులు ఉంటున్నప్పుడు, క్రింద ఉన్నటువంటి ఉద్యోగస్తులు, డిపార్టుమెంటులు ఏలాగుండునో వేరే చెప్పనవసరము లేదు. కనుక ప్రస్తుత పరిపాలనా విధానము పూర్తిగా మార్చేసేగాని ప్రజలు సుఖపడదు. ఏ ప్రభుత్వమైనా గాని కేవలము చార్జీ సౌకర్యాలు, చార్జీ దృష్టకము ననుసరించి వ్యవహరిస్తే అది ఏనాటికైనా పతనముకాక తప్పదని తెలుసుకొని మిరుస్తున్నాను.”

SRI M. PENTANNAIDU :—“అధ్యక్ష, నేను విజిల్స్ కొండ ప్రాంతమువాడను. మా ప్రాంతములోని ప్రజలకు తన తిండి, కట్టు గుడ్డాలేవు. నేను 1938 వ సంవత్సరం దగ్గర్నుంచి గాంధీగారి ఆహింసా సిద్ధాంతం ప్రకారం దేశభక్తితో సజానీవ చేస్తున్నాను. 1947-48 వ సంవత్సరంలో గోయిపాకమురా వెల్లి ప్రజలకు బాధిస్తూ ప్రండగా వారు తాముపడుతున్న బాధలగురించి నాతో చెప్పుకొన్నారు. ఆ సమయానికి కురుపం జమీందారుగారు వారి ఉద్యోగస్తులను పంపి మమ్ము కొట్టింది నారు. ఈ విషయం ప్రభుత్వం రికార్డులలో ఉన్నది. ఆంధ్రప్రభలోకూడా ప్రకటింపబడింది. జమీందారుగారు, పుత్రులతోపున్న మా కుడిచేయిలూడా నరికించి వేశాడు. కొరెగంట జోనర్యస్ అనేవాని పైరును, గొర్రెలచేత, పశువులచేత మేడించి వేసినారు. నేను యిల్లు కట్టుకొనుటకు అడవినుంచి కర్ర తెచ్చుకొనగా ఈ కురుపం జమీందారుగారి ఫారెస్టుగార్డులు గృహము కట్టినవ్యకుండా నన్ను బాధిస్తున్నారు. గృహము కట్టుకుంటానని నేను జమీందారీ ఫారెస్టు రేంజర్ దిబ్బ పంతులుగారికి దరఖాస్తు యిచ్చియున్నాను. నన్నే ఉద్యోగస్తులు యీ విధంగా బాధలుపెడు తూంటే ఇంక సామాన్య కొండ ప్రజలను వారు ఎన్నివిధాల యిబ్బందుల పాలుచేస్తారో ఊహించుకోరాను. దురిబ్బి, నేరడి, టక్కబాయి, మొదలైన గ్రామాలలోని సవరలను గూడా ఉద్యోగస్తులు రావణాసురుడులాగా హింసిస్తూ ప్రజలచేత వెట్టి చాకిరి చేయిస్తున్నారు. మేము కొండపోలు చేసుకొంటే ఒక్కొక్క గ్రామ ప్రజలనుంచి రెండేసి వందల రూపాయలు వసూలుచేస్తున్నారు. మాకు యీ రాక్షస బాధలు పోవాలి. జమీందారు పోవాలి. కంట్రాక్టుదారులు మమ్ము బెదిరించి కోడి పుంజులు కొట్టుకుపోతున్నారు. ఇప్పవెట్లు వండినా పండకపోయినా మమ్ము బాధలుపెట్టి రెండువందల రూపాయలు వసూలుచేస్తున్నారు. మా బాధల గురించి కలెక్టరుగారికి

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తహసిల్దార్ గారికి, ఇన్ స్పెక్టర్ గార్కి పిటిషన్ దాఖలు చేసుకున్నా వారేమీ చర్య తీసుకోకుండా వున్నారు. ఇటువంటి ఉద్యోగులకు జీతాలివ్వడం దండుక. మఱు వారు చాలా బాధిస్తున్నారు. మాకు కంటి వెంట రక్షాలు పడుతున్నాయి. ఇది రైతు కూలీ ప్రవారాజ్యం. రైతు కూలీ ప్రజలకు భూములు కావాలి."

SRI P. RAMA RAO :—"అధ్యక్ష, నేను కోత తీర్మానమును బలపర్చుచున్నాను. రెవెన్యూ మంత్రిగారు ప్రతిపాదించిన పద్దు మొత్తమును యీ శాసనసభ్యులు ఆమోదించరాదని చెబుతున్నాను. దీనికి కారణం జిల్లాలో ప్రభుత్వ పరిపాలన లోప భూయిష్టంగా వుండుటే అని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను. ఈనాడు ప్రభుత్వ పరిపాలనా శాఖలు అధికమైనాయి. జిల్లాలో కొత్త అఫీసులెక్క పెరిగిపోయినాయి. అఫీసులెక్క, అఫీస్సులెక్క సంఖ్య అధికమౌతూనే వుంది. రోజురోజుకూ పెరిగి పోతున్న యీ ప్రభుత్వ సిబ్బందివల్ల ప్రజలకు తగినంతలాభం కల్గుతోందా అనే విషయం సంతోషాస్పదం. వివిధశాఖలను ప్రభుత్వం ఏర్పరుస్తోందంటే అది ప్రజలకు మేలు కలుగజేసే చుట్టేత్యంతోనే అని సాధారణంగా అనుకోవాలి. ప్రజలకు సంబంధించిన కార్యకలాపాలు తొందర తొందరగా జరుగుటకే హెచ్చుసిబ్బంది యేర్పాటుచేయబడిందే కాని వాస్తవంగా ప్రజలకు యీ సిబ్బందివల్ల అనుకూలత మేర కల్గుటలేదు. ప్రస్తుతం రైతులకు అప్పలిచ్చేటందుకుగాను గ్రతి తాలూకాలోను లోన్సు తహసిల్దార్ అసబడె ఒక ఉద్యోగి కొంత సిబ్బందితో నియమింపబడ్డాడు. మామూలు రెవెన్యూ ఉద్యోగి స్థులేకాక యీ కొత్త ఉద్యోగులను నియమించటం రైతులకు సకాలంలో ఋణము లను అందచేయడం కొరకేనని అందరూ విశ్వసించాలి. కాని యీ ఉద్యోగులవల్ల రైతులకు ఎంత మేలకలుగుతోంది అనే విషయం గురించి ఒక చిన్న ఉదాహరణయిస్తాను. ఈ తాలూకాలో 1951 వ సంవత్సరం జూన్ నెలనుంచి ఇప్పటికి వరకు 1,150 మంది రైతులు యీ అప్పలిచ్చే తహసిల్దార్ గార్కి ఋణములకై దరఖాస్తులు పెట్టుకొన్నారు. ఈ దరఖాస్తుదారులలో యింతవరకు అప్పలిచ్చినది 150 మందికి మాత్రమే అని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను. ఒక సంవత్సరం కాలంలో కొన్ని నేల రూపాయిల జీత భత్యాలక్రింద భిన్ను చేసినది 150 మంది వేద రైతులకు కొద్ది మొత్తం సొమ్ము అప్పు యిచ్చుటకేనా అని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను. అధికాహరోత్పత్తి చేయవలసిన రైతుకు సంబంధించిన విషయాలపై ఇంత అశ్రద్ధచూపడం అరికట్టడమా అని అడుగుతున్నాను. ఈ రెక్క ప్రకారం చూచినట్లయితే ఎంతకాలానికి మనం ఈ దరఖాస్తుదారు లందరికీ ఋణములు మంజూరు చేయగలమని అడుగుతున్నాను. రైతాంగానికి సంబంధించిన కార్యనిర్వహణలో ఈ మందగోడీతనాన్ని తొలగించేందుకు ప్రభుత్వం కృషిచేయాలి. కొత్తకొత్త అఫీసులను సృష్టించడంతోనే సంస్కృష్టపడక వాటిని ఏర్పాటు చేయడంలో ప్రభుత్వం తలపెట్టినపనులు చేరుకుగా అమలు జరిపేటట్లు చూడవలసినదని ప్రభుత్వంవారికి తెలియజేస్తున్నాను.

"ప్రభుత్వమువారు జమీందారీలను రద్దుచేశారు. జమీందారీ ప్రాంతాలను రైతావ్రీ ప్రాంతాలుగా మారుస్తున్నారు. ప్రభుత్వం యీ ఎట్టేట్లను స్వాధీనం చేసుకోటానికి రైతావ్రీ శిస్తు విధానాలను. జమీందారీ ప్రాంతాల్లో అమలుపరచటానికి నియమించిన ఉద్యోగులు చాలా నిరంకుశంగా ప్రవర్తిస్తున్నారు. నానాటికీ జమీందారీ రద్దువల్ల లాభమేమీ జరుగలేదు అని రైతులు అనుకునేటంత నిరంకుశంగా వారు పరిపాలన కొనసాగిస్తున్నారు. జమీందారీ రద్దుశాసనం చేసినపుడు అనాటి రెవెన్యూశాఖా మాత్యులు జమీందారీ రైతులలో ఎన్నో ఆశలు కల్పించారు. జమీందారీ రద్దువల్ల రైతులకు సౌకర్యాలు హెచ్చుచేయదలిచామని చెప్పారు కాని నేడు అచరణలో రైతు అనేకవిధాలైన ఒత్తిడికి గురిచేయబడుతున్నాడు. ఇదివరలో అడవులలో రైతులు

[Sri P. Rama Rao] [16th July 1952]

తమ పశువులను మేపుకొనుటకు, కొంత కంప తెచ్చుకొనుటకు సౌకర్యములు ఉండేవి, కాని నేడు అవన్నీ తొలగించబడ్డాయి. ముఖ్యంగా మెట్టప్రాంతాలలోని రైతులను ప్రభుత్వద్యోగులు చాలా బాధలు పెడుతున్నారు. వారి పశువులను అడవులలో మేపుకొనివ్వడంలేదు. అఖరకు బండి వసీ కర్రలకుగాను కొత్తకొట్టుకోటానికి కూడా ఉద్యోగులు అభ్యంతర పెట్టుతున్నారు. ఈ అడవులలో రైతులకు ఇదివరకు ఉండే సదుపాయాలన్నీ తొలగించబడ్డాయి. ఈ మధ్యన ఒక మనిషి బండి వసీ కొయ్యలకు గాను అడవిలో కర్రకొట్టుకొన్నాడనే కారణంచేత అతనికి 60 రూపాయల జరిమానా విధించబడింది. ఇది నిరంకుశత్వమే, మరేమీ ప్రభుత్వంవారు గుర్తించాలి. నానాటికి రైతుపై దారుణ్యం హెచ్చితోతోంది. దీనిని ఆరికట్టడానికి ప్రభుత్వం శ్రద్ధ వహించమని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను.

“జమీందారీ రైతులవద్దనుంచి శిస్తు వసూలుచేసే సందర్భంలోకూడా ఉద్యోగులు చాలా నిర్దాక్షిణ్యంగా ప్రవర్తిస్తున్నారు. ఖామి ఎంతవుంది, ఎంత శిస్తు రైతు చెల్లించవలసి యుంటుంది అనే విషయాలపై అధికారులు శ్రద్ధ చూపడంలేదు. ఎస్టేట్ గ్రామాలలో సర్వే అనేది సక్రమంగా జరుపబడలేదని, జమీందారు ఇచ్చిన పట్టాలలోని విస్తీర్ణానికి అసలు ఖామి విస్తీర్ణానికి ఎంతో తేడా వుంటుందనే విషయం అందరికీ తెలుసును. ఈ విషయమై రైతులు ఎన్నిసార్లు విన్నవించుకొంటున్నా అధికారులు అలించడంలేదు. ఒక గ్రామంలో నాకు తెలిసిన ఒక రైతుకు చెందిన ఖామి 14 ఎకరాలు మాత్రమే వుంది. కాని పట్టాలో అది 16 ఎకరాలు అని ప్రాయోగిడింది. ఈ తేడా గురించి ఆ రైతు అధికారులకు తెలియజేసుకున్నాడు కాని ఏమీ లాభంలేక పోయింది. రైతులకు సంబంధించిన విషయాలపట్ల యీ ఉద్యోగులు ఎంత అశ్రద్ధచేస్తున్నారో అనేదానికి ఉదాహరణగా మాత్రమే యీ విషయాన్ని తెలియజేశాను. జమీందారీ రద్దు శాసనం అమలు జరిగి జమీందారీ రైతు శిస్తు ప్రభుత్వానికి కట్టుట మొదలుపెట్టిన దగ్గర్నుంచి యీ రైతు యిదే విధంగా ప్రభుత్వానికి యేదేమా రెండవరకు అదనపు ఖామికి హెచ్చు శిస్తు చెల్లించుకొంటు న్నాడు. ఈ విధంగా చెల్లించిన శిస్తును ముదరాయిస్తారా అని అడుగుతున్నాను. మరొక ఉదాహరణంగాకూడా మనవి చేస్తాను. ఇంకొకరైతుకు ఖామి లేకపోయినా శిస్తు కట్టువలసివస్తోంది. అతని పూర్వీకులు యిదివరలోనే కొంత ఖామిని యితరులకు విక్రయించారు. కాని పట్టామార్పు జరిగినట్లు లేదు. అందుచేత అతడి పన్ను చెల్లించుకోవాలని అధికారులు అంటున్నారు. ఇది అన్యాయమని మొరపెట్టుకొన్నా వారు వివరు. వస్తు చెల్లింపకపోతే అతని పశువులను, చెంబు, తప్పేలాలును జప్తుచేస్తారు. జమీందారీ ప్రాంతాలలో ప్రభుత్వపరిపాలన ఎంత ఆకర్షకంగా జరుగుతోందో యీ విషయాలనుబట్టి గ్రహించుకోవచ్చు. రైతుకు నిజంగా ఖామి ఉన్నది లేనిది వారు గుర్తించరు. రైతు సాగుచేస్తున్న ఖామి విస్తీర్ణానికి, పుస్తకాలలో ప్రాయోగిడిన విస్తీర్ణానికి తేడాలున్నా వారు ఆ విషయాలు అంగీకరించరు. రైతువద్దనుంచి శిస్తును గుంపటమే వారి విద్యుత్త కర్తంగా యీ ఉద్యోగులు భావిస్తున్నారు. పరిపాలన చాలా నిరంకుశంగా వుంది. రైతులలో అసంతృప్తి హెచ్చుచువుంది. వారు ఆందోళన వదుతున్నారు, అలజడ చెందుతున్నారు. శ్రీ రాజగోపాలాచారిగారు ఈ ఆందోళనను, అలజడిని కమ్యూనిష్టులు పోల్చుకొనిస్తున్నారని ఆనవచ్చు; కాని అది వాస్తవికానికి చాలాదూరమని మాత్రం వారు గుర్తించాలి. కమ్యూనిష్టులపై ఆధారాలు వేసినంతమాత్రంచేత పుజిలు పరిపాలనలోని, నిరంకుశత్వాన్ని, నిర్దాక్షిణ్యాన్ని మరచి పోతారని అనుకోవడం పొరపాటు. జమీందారీ ప్రాంతాలలోని రైతులు ప్రభుత్వానికి చెల్లించుకోవలసిన శిస్తులగురించి అనేక పర్యాయాలు మా ప్రాంతాలలోని తహసీల్దార్లకు, డిప్యూటీ కలెక్టరుకు విన్నవించుకొన్నాము. కాని వారు మా విన్నపాలను

16th July 1952]

[Sri P. Rama Rao]

పెడవెని పెడుతున్నారు. ఈ ఆశ్చర్యం, నిరంకుశత్వానికి స్వస్తి చెప్పే తరుణం ఆ సమయం అధికారులు గుర్తించాలి. ఇస్తు వసూలుచేయడంతోనే తమ పని పూర్తి అయిందని కాక నిజంగా రైతుకు ఖామి వున్నదా, లేదా అనే విషయం, ఖామిలున్నట్లుంటే దాని విస్తీర్ణమెంత, ఎంత డబ్బు అతడు చెల్లించడం న్యాయం అనే విషయాలను ఉద్యోగులు ఉదారబుద్ధితో పరిశీలించాలి.

“ఇంకొక విషయం మనవిచేస్తాను. ఖామిలు మెట్టసాగు చేస్తున్నారా? లేక పల్లపుసాగు చేస్తున్నారా అనేవిషయం కూడా యీ ఉద్యోగులు సరిగా గమనించడం లేదు. నా నియోజకవర్గంలోని ఒక గ్రామంలో ఒక చెరువుంది. ఆ చెరువు మరమ్మత్తులు లేక పాడైపోయింది. పూర్వపు ఆయకట్టులో ఏ కొద్దిదాకా మా మాత్రము చెరువు నీటితో సాగు చేయబడుతోంది. చెరువు వాగుగా ఉన్నపుడు ఆ ఖామి లన్నిటివైన పల్లపు లేటే వసూలుచేసేవారు. కాని చెరువు పాడైపోవుటవల్ల కొంత ఖామిపై మెట్ట రేటునే వసూలు చేస్తున్నారు. జమీందారు చేతికింద వున్నపుడు ఆయనకూడా మెట్టరేటునే ఆ ఖామిలపై వసూలుచేసేవాడు. కాని ఎప్పుడైతే జమీందారి స్వాధీనం చేసుకో బడితో ఆపుటనుంచి వ్యవస్థలు కల్లపురేటునే వసూలుచేస్తున్నారు. జమీందారు మెట్టరేటు వసూలు చేశాడని వారికి విన్నవించుకున్నా వారు సమ్మతించేరు. చెరువు పాడైపోయి ఖామికి నీరు సప్లయ చేయలేకపోయినా, రికార్డులలో ఆ ఖామి పల్లం అని వుండుటవల్ల పల్లపు లేటే వసూలు చేస్తామని అధికారులు అంటున్నారు. కొంత వరకు ఆ రైతునుంచి రీస్ రూపాయలు అదనంగా వసూలు చేస్తున్నారు. చెరువును వాగుచేయించి ఖామిలకు సరిగా నీటిని సరఫరా చేయించినైనా చేయించాలి, లేదా మెట్టరేటు వసూలుచేస్తూ ఇదివరలో అదనంగా వసూలుచేసిన మొత్తాని ముదరా యివ్వాలి ఈ విషయమై రాజగోపాలాచారిగారు శ్రద్ధ తీసుకోవాలని కోరు తున్నాను. ఇదివరలో రైతులు అధికార్లకు ఈ హద్దుకన్న వసూలుచేసే సంగతి విన్నవించుకోగా వారు జమాబందీ సందర్భంలో వచ్చి చెప్పుకొన్నచో మార్పులు చేయిస్తామని చెప్పారు. కాని, రైతులు జమాబందీనాటికి వెళ్లినా ఆపుటికి రెక్క లన్నీ పూర్తయి పోయినాయి అనే కారణంచేత ఈ విషయమై తరువాత ఆలో చిస్తామన్నారు. ఇదేవిధంగా ఇంకొక గ్రామంలో మెట్టసాగు చేస్తున్న రైతుపై పల్లపుసాగు చేస్తున్నాడని ఆరోపించి, 15 రూపాయల చొప్పున చెల్లించవలసిన ఇస్తు వెనాల్గీవేసి దానిని 22 రూపాయలు చేశారు. రైతులకు సరియైన వసతులు కల్పించ కుండా ఏదో ఒక కారణం చెప్పి హద్దు ఇస్తులు వసూలుచేయడం పరిశీలి ఆయి పోయింది. జమీందారి రద్దవల్ల ఇస్తు తగ్గించు జరుగుతుంది అని అనుకొన్న రైతు లకు ఆశాభంగం అయింది. ఈ అధికారుల నిరంకుశవర్తనవల్ల రైతులు చాలా ఇబ్బందులు పడుతున్నారు. దివి తొలకాలలో పెడ రైతుల ఎంతో కాలంనుంచి సాగు చేసుకొంటున్న కొన్ని మెరక ఖామిలపై యిప్పుడు ఇస్తు హద్దుచేశారు. ఈ ఖామి లను పల్లపుసాగు చేస్తున్నారని చెప్పి నూటికి నూరు రూపాయలు వెనాల్గీ విధిం చారు. ఎన్నో సంవత్సరాలుగా ఈ ఖామిలకు తక్కువ రేటునే చెల్లిస్తున్నారు. కాని అధికారులు ఇదివరకుండి పద్దులను గమనించకుండా, వెనాల్గీలు వేస్తు న్నారు దీనికంతకూ కారణం ఉద్యోగులలోని నిరంకుశభావమే నని మరిల ప్రభు త్వము వారికి మనవి చేస్తున్నాను. పరిపాలన ఇంత నికృష్టముగా జరుపబడుతూవుండే ప్రజలు ఆందోళన చెందక ఏం చేస్తారు. ప్రజలను బాధించే విషయాలను సరిదిద్దక కమ్యూనిస్టులు ప్రజలలో ఆశాభరిని రెవ్వగడుతున్నారు అని అనడంలో ఆర్థ మేదా నాకు బోధపడడం లేదు. బహుశః రాజగోపాలాచారిగారు రైతులను తమ కష్టాలను ఎవరికి చెల్లించకుండా అనుభవించవలసిందని అగ్రహయతది వుండవచ్చు.

[Sri P. Rama Rao]

[16th July 1952]

“బంజరు భూములను, సాగుకుయ్యి సందర్భంగా కూడా ఉద్యోగస్తులు భూమిలేని పేదవారికి పట్టవంటి ఉపకారం చేయటంలేదు. భూమివున్న భూస్వాము లకే వీటిని కూడా కట్టబెడుతున్నారు. కైకలూరు తాలూకాలో 500 ఎకరాల భూమిని ఒక భూస్వామికి 15 రూపాయల నానుమాత్రపు శిస్తుకు యిచ్చారు. ఈ విషయంలో ఆ నేకమంది పేదవారు; కో-ఆపరేటివ్ లేబర్ సొసైటీలుగా ఏర్పడి సాగుచేసుకొంటా మని పిటిషన్లు పెట్టుకొన్నారు. వినా అధికారులు వారికి యేవిధంగానూ సహాయ పడడం లేదు. ఈ పిటిషన్లన్నీ తహశీల్దార్ యొక్క, డిప్యూటీ కలెక్టరు యొక్క ఆఫీసులలో వెతికిస్తే కనిపిస్తాయి. ఇల్లాగ ఎక్కడ అన్యాయాలు జరుగుతున్నాయి. ఇక మీదటనూ ఉద్యోగులు నిరంకుశత్వంగా ప్రవర్తించక, రైతుల గోడు విసేటట్లు చేయ వలసినదని ప్రభుత్వంవారికి మనవి చేస్తున్నాను.”

* SRI PADMAPRABHA GOUNDER :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know how I shall be able to explain, within the little time at my disposal, my views on such an important Demand as the present one. I find in the Budget, Sir, a provision of rupees 7,37,500 made for the Land Colonization Scheme at Wynaad, which includes a sum of Rs. 4,27,900 for the construction of buildings. Ninety-nine per cent of the amount allotted for this scheme, that is, 99 per cent of the total provision made in the Budget for this scheme *minus* the provision made for the construction of buildings, is to be spent on payment of salaries and allowances to officials who are in charge of this scheme.

“ The Administrative Officer in charge of that scheme had sent a report to the Government on March 9th—and I have got a copy of his report with me now—that a sum of Rs. 59 lakhs had already been spent on that scheme. Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Members of the Government that I am a hereditary planter in Wynaad and I have enough knowledge of how plantation and agricultural operations are carried on in these parts. I must say that the Government, without considering the topography and soil conditions of Wynaad, have invested such a large sum on this Land Colonization Scheme. I consider the whole expenditure on this scheme a criminal waste. Therefore, I would like to advise the Government to postpone at least temporarily the construction of buildings which are provided for in this Land Colonization Scheme and divert the amount for the grant of takkavi loans to the colonists to enable them to tide over the rainy season. I am certain that this scheme is bound to fail if the Government persist in their present policy, and I am stating this from my own experience of plantation and agriculture in Wynaad. I hope and trust that the Government would take note of my criticism in the spirit in which it is offered and would not regard it as a destructive criticism.

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“ The next point is that already many of the colonists of the area have bolted away. In the existing conditions and circumstances, they were forced to do so. The cost per head for the Government was Rs. 1,900 and for 333 persons if the amount was fully paid, the Government would lose more than 6 lakhs of rupees. The present figure shows that the total number of persons colonized is 2,832 persons. Of the number that has been

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settled, about 10 per cent have already bolted away. If this is to continue, then I do not know how the scheme is going to be worked. If a Commission is appointed to value the development that has already taken place, I, as a planter feel, that it will not be worth the money that has been spent on these schemes.

"I next come to another wing of the colonization scheme. The land acquired so far is more or less from the aborigines of Wynaad, whether they are tribal people or Savarnas. Here is an interesting pamphlet which contains a 4-anna court-fee stamped memorandum submitted to me by the people of the colonized areas, including Savarnas and others. From this memorandum we can understand how much the people have developed educationally and intellectually. The whole process of acquisition is like robbing Peter and paying Paul. I have received many other reports from these people as well as colonists containing grave charges against the administrative officer and the subordinate officials. All that I say is that the people of Wynaad should be provided with measures for their amelioration. Wynaad is known to be the milch cow of Malabar. It is the best taluk in Malabar. Yet there is plenty of scope for development and the lands should be given to people who know how to operate. The aborigines of Wynaad have been sent out of the area and they are in a grave plight. They should be colonized. They are terrorized by the officials. In this connexion, I would like to make a detailed representation to the Government and I would request the Hon. the Minister, when I do so, to consider it sympathetically and do something positive rather than spend money on buildings, etc. The whole expenditure of nearly 66,27,900 rupees on the scheme of colonization will be a waste otherwise.

"Then, Sir, deforestation goes on uninterruptedly. While on the one hand, Vanamahotsava is propagated, deforestation is being criminally executed. In the Wynaad area afforestation is necessary; a minimum amount of humidity must be maintained if there should be rainfall. But the officials are interested in pursuing the policy of disafforestation mercilessly. I want Government to take action in this matter."

* SRI P. B. K. RAJACHIDAMBARAM :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. the Chief Minister in winding up the debate yesterday made us understand that our State has got one of the most efficient Secretariats in the country and a Revenue Board consisting of very able and efficient members. But I would like to know whether an able Secretariat is enough to run the administration of the country in an efficient manner. Will it not be like fitting a car with a rickety body, wobbling wheels, worn-out tyres but with a first-class Rolls Royce engine? Will an efficient Secretariat alone enable us to run the administration? Should we not have an equally efficient, dutiful district administration throughout the State? When we look at the administration of the State, we all know that the district administration has been organized on the legacy left by those traders from England called the East India

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Company who afterwards became the British Government here. The Civil Service at the district level was organized by the East India Company in order that such civil servants might be their agents to collect taxes and then, when they collected taxes, incidentally to maintain law and order. As this was going on, they came to settle disputes between parties and groups which were gradually increasing. Therefore, if we look at the present district administration, we must agree that the very outlook of the administration to-day is more or less the same as it was when it was organized with a view to collect taxes and to govern the country, more in the interests of the ruler than in the interests of the public. But now, times have changed and we, as a self-governing country, should see that the outlook of the district administration is changed. The necessity for such a change is beyond question. There are certain rules called the Board's Standing Orders. These are, as one of our district officers once humourously said, such that many of the civil servants at the district level need not at all think for themselves when disposing of files. The Board's Standing Orders are there as their Bible. They can simply refer to the particular order which covers the case they come across, and take a decision. We do not want such a system of district administration. We want that the district officers should think for themselves and decide every issue on its merits taking into consideration the nature of the locality and the condition of the people living in that locality. Therefore, Sir, it is high time that these Board's Standing Orders were shelved in some safe vault.

" Sir, hon. Members occupying the Ministerial Benches call themselves disciples of Mahatma Gandhi and I do not dispute that. Mahatma Gandhi always stood for decentralization; but what do we have now in the district administration? Many hon. Members on the other side know what is happening. For instance, for many of the little things which can be efficiently done by the district officers themselves, they have to go all the way to the Secretariat or to the fifth wheel of the coach called the Board of Revenue and wait there for the orders of the efficient Secretaries or the able Members of the Board. To cite one example, when I was a high school student some thirty years ago, a proposal was mooted for the acquisition of a playground for the high school. I may inform the House that the proposal is still pending with the Government, that is, for thirty years now, since I left the high school. Had only the local officers been entrusted with the work of land acquisition proceedings, I am quite sure it would not have taken such a long time. As President of a District Board, I can very boldly say that much of the good work, especially in the formation of village roads, is being delayed because the local officers are not vested with the power which is necessary for them to undertake and finish such works, though they enjoy other powers which are mostly unnecessary.

" Coming to rural water-supply, it is an ordinary matter which can be entrusted safely to the District Collector. Things such as selecting a site for a well and sinking a well there, need not

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await the sanction of the Board of Revenue. I therefore strongly feel that for such things, the District Collectors should not be made to look to the Board of Revenue or the Government.

“ The Hon. the Chief Minister, ever since he assumed office, has been mentioning that there should not be interference from the Members of the Legislative Assembly especially in the district administration. I would like to request hon. Members on the other side not to interfere with the district administration in their day-to-day activities. The hon. Member, the leader of the Justice party, who is a trusted friend of the Government to-day, referred the other day to a certain incident which is called the Theni incident and which took place some time last year in his district. The Government were very anxious to take action in that case even before the local officials reported the matter to the Government. I can go on giving a catalogue of such incidents wherein the Government in their anxiety, for reasons well known to them, have always interfered in the district administration. Many of the district officials did not know whether they were to do their duty or to wait for a call from the Gods above. I do not know, Sir, whether in the case to which reference was made by the hon. leader of the Justice party, any action has been taken by the Government. I would only request the Leader of the House—the Chief Minister is not here—if no action has been taken so far, that some action be taken on the incident called the Theni incident. I would also like to have an assurance either from the Leader of the House or the Hon. the Revenue Minister that interference from the Government in the district administration will stop in future. Of course, the Government are there to see that their policies are implemented in the districts; but governmental interference in the day-to-day administration of the districts must cease and unless this is done, we cannot expect an efficient administration.

“ Sir, I will be failing in my duty if I do not refer to the plight of the poor village officers. The Hon. the Chief Minister took pride in the fact that we have got a most efficient Secretariat. May I point out that unless we have an efficient, trustworthy and honest village establishment, we cannot run the administration properly? Let it be work relating to collection of revenue; let it be maintenance of law and order; let it be any work of the Government, it is the village officers who are doing it. I can boldly say that many of the village officers are very efficient, honest and trustworthy as compared with the Revenue Inspectors and some of the Tahsildars. Even in a recent report of a Committee in which the Hon. the Leader of the House was a member, a suggestion was made for the abolition of the posts of Revenue Inspectors provided we had a good set of village officials. I agree with the suggestion. We must have a set of efficient, contented village officers and I wish that the Hon. the Minister for Revenue draws up proposals in this regard, so that we may really have a band of efficient village officers.

“ With these words, Sir, I support the cut motion.”

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p.m.

* SRI K. S. LAKSHMIPATHY NAICKER :—“கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, ஜில்லா பரிபாலனத்தின் கீழ் நடைபெறும் மானியத்தைப் பற்றி பேசும் போது நான் மதுரை ஜில்லாவைப் பற்றி இரண்டொரு வார்த்தைகள் சொல்லிக் கொள்ள ஆசைப்படுகிறேன்.

“மதுரை ஜில்லா தனக்குப் போதுமான அளவு தானியங்களை உற்பத்தி செய்து கொண்டு அங்குள்ள மக்களைப் பசி பட்டினி முதலியவைகளிலிருந்து காப்பாற்றிக் கொள்ளக்கூடிய நிலையில் இருப்பதாக இங்குள்ளவர்கள் பலர் நினைத்திருப்பார்கள் என்று நான் நம்புகிறேன். ஆனால் உண்மையில் அங்கே எப்படியிருக்கிறதென்பதை நாம் பார்க்கவேண்டும். மதுரை ஜில்லாவில் இருக்கக்கூடிய சில தாலுகாக்கள் ராயலசீமாவில் இன்று இருக்கும் கொடிய பஞ்சத்தைக் காட்டிலும், அதிகமான கோரப் பஞ்சத் தால் பீடிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதென்பதை நான் இங்கே இருக்கிறவர்களின் ஞாபகத்திற்குக் கொண்டு வருகிறேன். மதுரை ஜில்லாவிலுள்ள பழனி தாலுக்கா, திண்டுக்கல் தாலுகா, திருமங்கலம், நிலக்கோட்டை தாலுகாக்கள் இன்று ராயலசீமாவில் இருப்பதைக் காட்டிலும், அதிகமான பஞ்சத்தில் பீடிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதென்பதில் சந்தேகமில்லை. இப்பொழுது மதுரை ஜில்லாவில் பெரியாறு என்ற திட்டம் இருக்கிறபடியால் அங்கு நீர்ப்பாசன வசதி நிறைய இருப்பதாகவும், அவர்கள் விவசாயத்தில் அதிக முன்னேற்றம் அடைந்து விட்டார்கள் என்பதாகவும் நினைக்க வேண்டியிருக்கிறது.

“கோயமுத்தூர் ஜில்லா, தாராபுரம் தாலுகாவை யொட்டியுள்ள பழனி தாலுகாவில் நீர்ப்பாசன வசதிகளைச் செய்வதற்கு இதற்கு முன்னாலிருந்த சர்க்கார் இரண்டு திட்டங்களைக் கொண்டு வந்தார்கள். அதாவது பழனிக்குச் சம்பத்திலுள்ள பாலாறு, பொருந்தலார் என்ற இரண்டு ஆறுகளுக்கும் அணை கட்டி ஆங்காங்குள்ள ஏரி நீர்ப்பாசன திட்டங்களுக்கு உதவி செய்வதென ஏற்பாடு செய்யப்பட்டது. அப்படிச் செய்தால் கொடுமையான பஞ்சத்தால் பீடிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கின்ற பழனி தாலுகாவுக்கு நீர்ப்பாசன வசதி செய்து கொடுக்க முடியுமென்றுதான் இந்தத் திட்டங்கள் போடப்பட்டன. அதைச் சர்வே செய்வதற்கும் அதி காரிகள் வந்து சர்வேயும் செய்துவிட்டார்கள். ஆனால் அந்தத் திட்டங்கள் அந்த ஜில்லாவிலிருந்து முன்பு சட்ட சபைக்கு அனுப்பப்பட்டிருந்த ஒரு தனிப்பட்ட எம். எல். எ.யின் குறுக்கீட்டின் பேரில் ஏராளமான பொது மக்களுடைய கோரிக்கைகளும் புறக்கணிக்கப்பட்டு, ஜனங்களுடைய சௌகரியங்கள் அலக்கியும் செய்யப்பட்டு அந்தத் திட்டங்கள் நிறுத்தப்பட்டு விட்டன. அந்த அணைக்கட்டுகளிலிருந்து வெட்ப்படுகிற வாய்க்கால் மேற்கே போகவேண்டுமா, கிழக்கே போகவேண்டுமா யென்ற தகராறில் தான் அந்தத் திட்டங்கள் அந்த எம். எல். எ.யினுடைய முயற்சியால் நிறுத்தப் பட்டுவிட்டது. அதற்குப் பிறகு ஓட்டன்சத்திரத்திலுள்ள பரப்பலாறு திட்டத் தைக் கொண்டு வந்தார்கள். அந்தத் திட்டத்தை அமுலுக்கு எடுத்துக் கொள்ளலாமா வேண்டாமாயென்பதற்காக ஜில்லா அதிகாரிகள் அந்த இடத்திற்குச் சென்று பார்த்து வேலை செய்யக்கூடிய சாமான்களை இந்தக் கரையிலிருந்து அந்தக் கரைக்கு கொண்டுபோவதற்கு வசதியில்லையென்றும், அதற்கே 6 லக்ஷம் ரூபாய்கள் செலவுமீயுமென்றும் அந்தத் திட்டத் தைக் கைவிட்டு விட்டார்கள். அதற்குப் பிறகு மதுரை கலெக்டராக வந்த மாரிஸ் என்பவர் மறுபடியும் அந்தத் திட்டத்தைப் போய் பார்த்து பரப்பலாறு இருக்கக்கூடிய பிரதேசத்தில் வேலை செய்யும் இடத்திற்கு சாமான்களைக் கொண்டு செல்வதற்கு ஒரு ரோடு இருக்கிறதென்றும், அத னால் சலபமாகக் கொண்டு போகலாமென்றும் குறிப்பிட்டு மறுபடியும் சர்க்காருக்கு எழுதியிருந்தார். அதற்குப் பிறகு அந்தத் திட்டத்திற்காக செலவு செய்யும் பணம் அந்தத் திட்டத்திலிருந்து ஒரு நாளும் கிடைக் காது என்று எண்ணி அதைச் சர்க்கார் நிறுத்தியிருக்கிறார்கள் என்று நினைக்கிறேன். அதைப்பற்றி மறுமுறையும் சர்க்கார் சிந்திக்கவேண்டுமென விரும்புகிறேன். இப்பொழுது மிகவும் சீரகோடாக இருந்துகொண்டிருக்கக்கூடிய கிராமங்களில் பஞ்ச நிவாரணமாக ரோடு போடுவதையும் நிறுத்தியிருக்கிறார்கள். இது சரியல்ல. இந்தப் பிரதேசங்கள் பஞ்சத் தினால் அதிகமாக பீடிக்கப்பட்டிருப்பதால் இந்தப் பிரதேசங்களிலுள்ள

16th July 1952]

[Sri K. S. Lakshmipathy Naicker]

குளங்கள், ஏரிகள், கால்வாய்கள் முதலியவைகளையாவது உடனடியாக மராமத்து செய்யவேண்டியது அவசியமென்பதைநான் சொல்லிக் கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன். இந்தப் பிரதேசங்களில் பஞ்சம் மி வும் கடுமையாக இருக்கிறது. ராயலசீமாவில் இருப்பதைக் காட்டிலும் மிகவும் கோரமாக தமிழ்நாட்டில் பஞ்சம் இந்தப் பிரதேசங்களில் தாண்டவமாடுகிறதென்பதை நான் சொல்லிக்கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன். அதுவும் நான்கு ஐந்து வருஷங்களாக மழையே இல்லாததால் விவசாயிகள் தங்களுடைய நிலங்களைச் சீர்திருத்தம் செய்யமுடியாமல் தவிக்கிறார்கள். நிலத்தைச் சீர்த்திருத்தம் செய்யவேண்டுமென்றால் கிணறுகளை ஆழமாக வெட்டவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. கிணறுகளை வெட்ட அவர்களிடம் பணமுமில்லை. லாண்டு மார்க்கேஜ் பாங்கில் கடன் வாங்கிக் கொள்ளலாமென்றால் அவர்களும் இவர்களுக்கு கடன் தரமாட்டேன் என்கிறார்கள். குறிப்பாக இந்த நிலங்கள் ஜமீன் பிரதேசத்தை சேர்ந்ததாதலால் ஜமீன் ஒழிப்புச் சட்டம் பாஸான பிறகு இந்த நிலங்களுக்கெல்லாம் இன்னும் சர்க்கார் சர்வே நம்பர் கொடுக்காததால் இவர்களுடைய நிலத்திற்கு லாண்டு மார்க்கேஜ் பாங்கு கடன் தரமாட்டேன் என்கிறது. ஆகையால் சர்க்கார் உடனே இந்த ஜமீன் பிராந்தியத்திலுள்ள நிலங்களுக்கு சர்வேயும், செட்டில்மெண்டும் செய்து தரவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“அதற்கு அடுத்தபடியாக கிராம அதிகாரிகளின் நிலைமையை உயர்த்துவதற்கு சர்க்கார் முன் வரவேண்டும். கிராமங்களிலுள்ள கணக்குப் பிள்ளை கிராம முனிசிப்கள்தான் சர்க்கார் போடும் உத்தரவுகளையெல்லாம் சரியாக கிராமங்களில் நிறைவேற்றி சர்க்கார் நிர்வாகங்களையெல்லாம் பொறுப்பாகச் செய்து கொண்டிருப்பவர்கள். அந்த கிராம அதிகாரிகளுக்கு அந்த உத்தியோகங்களில் பரம்பரை பாத்தியதையும் இருக்கிறபடியால் சர்க்கார் அந்த கிராம அதிகாரிகளுடைய குழந்தைகள் படிப்பதற்கு வேண்டிய வசதிகளைச் செய்து தரவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது அதைச் செய்து கொடுக்கத் தவறினால் பின்னால் வரக்கூடிய சந்ததியார்கள் ஒன்றும் தெரியாதவர்களாக ஆகி விடுவார்கள். அதோடு இப்பொழுது இருக்கக்கூடிய கிராம அதிகாரிகளின் நிலைமை மிகவும் கேவலமாக இருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது சர்க்காருடைய கிராமங்களின் அதாவது “அயன்” கிராம அதிகாரிகளுடைய சம்பளத்திற்கும், ஜமீன் கிராமங்களிலுள்ள கிராம அதிகாரிகளின் சம்பளத்திற்கும் ஏராளமான வித்தியாசம் இருக்கிறது. இந்த இரண்டு பேர்களும் செய்யும் வேலை ஒன்று தான். அப்படியிருந்தும் ஏன் இப்படி சம்பளத்தில் அதிக வித்தியாசம் இருக்கவேண்டுமென்பதை சர்க்கார் கவனிக்கவேண்டும். அதிலும் இவர்கள் ஜமாபந்தி காலத்தில் கிராமக் கணக்குகளை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு ஜில்லா, தாலுக்கா தலைமை இடத்திற்குச் செல்லுவதற்கு அவர்களுக்குப் போக்குவரத்து அலவன்ஸ் ஒன்றும் கொடுப்பதில்லை. அதற்குப் பதில் என்ன நடக்கிறதென்றால் அங்கே வரக்கூடிய அதிகாரிகளின் செலவையும் ஈடுகட்ட இவர்களிடமிருந்தே பணம் வசூல் செய்து கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள் என்பதை நான் குறிப்பாக ஞாபகப் படுத்துகிறேன். மிகவும் குறைந்த சம்பளம் வாங்கிக் கொண்டிருக்கக் கூடிய இவர்கள், அதிகச் சம்பளம் வாங்கிக்கொண்டிருக்கக் கூடிய மேல்திகாரிகளுக்கும் செலவு செய்யவேண்டுமென்று சொல்வது சரியா? நியாயமா? என்பதைப் பார்க்கவேண்டும். அவர்கள் நிலைமையை உயர்த்துவதற்கு உடனடியாக முயற்சி செய்யவேண்டும். மேலும் சர்க்காரின் உத்தரவுகளை கையில் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நேர்மையாகவும், நியாயமாகவும் நடந்துகொண்டு வருகிற சர்க்கார் அதிகாரிகளுக்கு இன்று மேல்திகாரிகளிடமிருந்து பார்ட்டுதலோ, பதவி உயர்வோ கிடைப்பதேயில்லை. எவர்கள் நியாயமாக நடந்து கொள்ளுகிறார்களோ அவர்களுக்கு மேலும் மேலும் கஷ்டமேதான் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. குறிப்பாக நான் சொல்லுகிறேன். தேனி சம்பளம் நடந்த காலத்தில் அதிகாரிகள் மிகவும் நேர்மையாகவும், ஒழுங்காகவும் நடந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள் என்பது மக்கள் அபிப்பிராயம். அவர்கள் நேர்மையாக நடந்து கொண்டதற்கு சர்க்கார் வெகுமதி எதுவும் கொடுக்காவிட்டாலும் கூட இன்று என்ன நடந்திருக்கிறதென்றால் ஒரு சிலரின் விருப்பத்தை நிறைவேற்றுவதற்காக அந்த அதிகாரிகள் வேலையில்லிருந்து சஸ்பெண்டு செய்யப்பட்டு 1½ வருஷகாலமாக, “உத்தியோகம் இல்லை வீட்டிற்குப் போய்விட்டோம்,” என்பதும்

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இல்லாமல், உத்தியோகம் நிச்சயமாகக் கிடைத்துவிடும் என்று நம்பிக் கொண்டும் இருக்கமுடியாமல் வீட்டிற்குத் திரும்பிப்போய் மனைவி மக்கள் முகத்தில் எப்படி விழிப்பது என்று தெரியாமல் உள்ளம் துடித்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகையால் உடனடியாக சர்க்கார் உத்தரவை கான்ஸல் செய்து நியாயமாகவும், நேர்மையாகவும் நடந்துகொண்ட அதி காரிகளுக்கு உதவிசெய்யவேண்டுமென்ற அவசியத்தை நான் எடுத்துச் சொல்லுகிறேன். அவ்வாறு சர்க்கார் இதை செய்யத் தவறியதின் காரண மாகத்தான் இன்று ஏராளமான ஊழல் நிர்வாகத்தில் இருக்கிறதென்று நான் சொல்லிக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். இதை நிவர்த்தி செய்யவேண்டும்.

“அதற்கு அடுத்தபடியாக கல்வி விஷயத்தை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால், இதற்கு முன்னால் இருந்த பிரதமர் கனம் குமாரசாமி ராஜா அவர்களு டைய சிபார்சு கடிதத்திற்குக்கூட திண்டுக்கல் செயிண்டுமெரிஸ் உயர் நிலைப் பள்ளியில் இடம் கிடைக்கவில்லை. திண்டுக்கல்லில் இருக்கக்கூடிய உயர்நிலைப்பள்ளிகளையும் பழனியில் இருக்கக்கூடிய ஒரு முனிசிபல் ஹைஸ் கூலையும் தவிர வேறு பள்ளிக்கூடங்களை என்னுடைய தொகுதிக்கு அருகில் கிடையாது. இந்தப் பள்ளிக் கூடங்களுக்குப் பிள்ளைகளை அனுப்புவது மிகவும் கஷ்டமாகவும் இருக்கிறது. இங்கே இருக்கக்கூடிய எம்.எல்.ஏ களுக்கும் தெரியும், அவர்கள் தங்கள் பிள்ளைகளைச் சேர்ப்பதற்காக அழைத் துச் சென்று இடமில்லையென்று திரும்பி வந்த விஷயம்; ஆகையால் இப்பொழுது ஜில்லா போர்டில் ஒரு பள்ளிக்கூடம் கட்டுவதற்கு திட்ட மிருக்கிறது. இந்தத் திட்டத்தின்படி ஒட்டன்சத்திரத்தில் பழனிக்கும் திண்டுக்கல்லிற்கும் மத்தியில் ஒரு தனிப் பள்ளிக்கூடத்தைக் கட்டுவதற்கு சர்க்கார் வேண்டிய முயற்சிகளைச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“அதோடு மட்டுமல்ல. நீர்ப்பாசன வசதிகளை எங்கள் தாலுகாக்களுக்குச் செய்து கொடுக்காமற் போனாலும் ஒட்டன்சத்திரம், பழனி வழியாக வருகின்ற மின்சாரத்தை அதற்கு அருகாமையிலுள்ள பழனி, திண்டுக்கல், கரூருக்கு மத்தியில் இருக்கின்ற எல்ஸா இடங்களுக்கும்ாவது மின்சாரவசதியை உடனடியாகச் செய்து கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் தாழ்மையுடன் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இந்தப் பக்கத்தில் மேட்டூரிலிருந்து மின்சாரம் வந்துகொண்டிருக்கிறது. ஆனால் துதிருஷ்டவசமாக அங்கே சப்ஸ்டேஷன்கள் இல்லாததால் அந்தத் தொகுதி முற்றிலும் மின் சார வசதி செய்துகொடுக்க மறுக்கப்படுகிறது. இப்பொழுது உடனடியாக அதைச் செய்து கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்பதாக நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—“ Sir, I rise to support the cut motion. In doing so, I want to speak first about the village establishment. The salaries paid to them are miserably low. When we plead for the enhancement of their salaries, Government say that they are not wholetime Government servants and that the salaries paid to them are only an honorarium. When the question of allowing them to stand for election to the Panchayat Boards, District Boards and the Legislatures comes up, then the Government say that they are public servants. The sooner the anomaly is removed, the better. This low salary paid to the village officers leads to corruption. The Hon. the Chief Minister was pleased to say that he is determined to wipe out these ‘mamools’ received by the village officers. It is on account of the low salary paid to them and the fact that they have to feed numerous officers day in and day out that they are obliged to collect ‘mamools’ from the ryots, during the Jamabandi and collection season and also in the distribution of loans. I brought to the notice of the Hon. the Chief Minister when he visited Anantapur district, instances of malpractices indulged in by the village officers and the Revenue Inspectors

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in the matter of distribution of loans, preparation of the loan applications and records and even destruction of loan records. I do not know what action Government took on them. Unless the salaries of the village officers are enhanced, the Government will not be able to eradicate corruption from among the village officers.

“ The Hon. the Chief Minister on a previous occasion said that he wanted to make the position of the villagers happy. How is he going to make their position happy when day in and day out these poor villagers are subjected to the tyranny of corruption and highhandedness on the part of the petty village officers, forest officials, police constables and the like? The police constables are now authorized to launch prosecutions under the Public Health Act and the District Police Act for the alleged violation of rules of sanitation. I know of instances where numerous prosecutions were launched for offences alleged to have been committed under the District Police Act, or the Public Health Act.

“ Further during *Jamabandi*, the village officers have to pay Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 to meet the expenses of the Revenue Inspectors, and some members of the establishment of the Revenue Divisional office and the Collector's office. When their accounts are checked, they have again to pay Rs. 10 to Rs. 15. In addition to this, they have to feed an army of officials. This practice has a deleterious effect on the village administration. The Tahsildars and the Revenue Inspectors are in their turn compelled to oblige the village officers even though they might be corrupt. They support them in the matter of allocation of works for water-supply. Although there might be no necessity to sanction the digging of a well in a particular village, in order to oblige a particular village officer, the work is sanctioned. I know of villages where well works have not been sanctioned even though hundreds of people suffer for want of water, whereas these well works have been sanctioned in certain villages with a comparatively small population on account of the fact that the Tahsildar or the establishment of the Divisional office was obliged to those village officers.

“ Coming to the District Administration, the District Officers receive supplies and services in spite of the fact that they are prohibited from taking supplies and services.

“ Unless these Revenue Inspectors, Tahsildars and the Police 1 p.m. officers are prohibited from receiving supplies, there is no salvation for the village officers and the Government will not be able to wipe out corruption. The Government say that the village officers have other avocations. What about the village servants? The village servants—*talayaris* and *vettis*—are obliged to work under the village officers and other Revenue officers and they are not allowed any time to attend to their avocations. They are paid a miserably low salary of about Rs. 15 per mensem which is not sufficient to purchase even *pan supari* and they have no other source of income except the meagre *mamools* they receive from the ryots. Therefore, Sir, it would be good if the Government increase the salaries of at least the village servants.

[Sri R. Siddanna Gowd]

[16th July 1952]

"Then, Sir, the District Superintendents of Police when they visit villages, accept supplies worth from Rs. 100 to Rs. 400 and they expect their Sub-Inspectors and Circle Inspectors to meet their needs and requirements. Therefore the receipt of supplies by the district officers including the District Superintendents of Police tends to promote corruption in the establishment of the Police department. In fact, the Sub-Inspectors have to do it by force of circumstances. As they are obliged to incur expenditure of hundreds of rupees towards supplies to their higher officers, they are in turn obliged to be corrupt and take *mamools* and go out of the way in registering false cases and in taking bribes from the poor innocent ryots.

"Again, Sir, there is no need for the *jamabandi*; there has been agitation for its abolition as it is leading to corruption. The village officers may be asked to prepare the accounts and produce them for the check of the Tahsildars and other Revenue officers instead of this paraphernalia of *jamabandi*. For instance, there are well registers. During the 1937 Congress Ministry, the Hon. the Chief Minister Sri C. Rajagopalachari ordered that well registers should be maintained by the village officers and inspected by the Revenue Inspectors and that they should also be produced at the time of *jamabandi*. I happened to inspect some village wells. Burrows had been formed under the curb-stones and the fall of the walls was impending. I do not know what the village officers or the Revenue Inspectors have been doing. With these few words, Sir, I shall resume my seat."

MR. SPEAKER:—"As some more hon. Members want to speak, I fix a time-limit of five minutes for each Member."

* SRI N. CHENCHURAMA NAIDU:—"ఆధ్యక్షా, గౌరవనీయులైన రెవెన్యూ మంత్రిగారు ప్రవేశపెట్టబడిన జిల్లా పరిపాలనకు సంబంధించిన డిమాండును నేను హృదయపూర్వకముగా విలపరచుచున్నాను. జిల్లా పరిపాలన గవర్నమెంటు పరిపాలనలో చాలా ముఖ్యమైనది. గవర్నమెంటువారు ప్రజల కుపకారము చేయదలచినను అంతయు జిల్లా పరిపాలన ద్వారా జరుగవలసియున్నది. అందువల్ల జిల్లాలో పరిపాలన చేయు అధికారుల సామర్థ్యము, పట్టుదల, ప్రజాసేవచేయఁగలగనైన అభిలాషను పట్టిమే గవర్నమెంటువారు చేయు భుపకారమైన పనులు ప్రజలకు చెందగలవు. అందువల్ల జిల్లా అధికారులు సామర్థ్యముగలవారు ప్రజాసేవతత్పరులుగా భండిన గవర్నమెంటువారు చేయు ప్రతి ఉపకారమైన పని ప్రజలకు చెందగలవు.

"మనకు స్వరాజ్యము వచ్చినతర్వాత ప్రతివారిలాకూడా ఒకవిధమైన స్టేషన్ నిర్లక్ష్యము విర్రుడిగది. ఆ స్టేషన్ను సరిగా భుపయోగించుకొనిన మంచిదే. కాని ప్రతి విషయములో స్టేషన్ను దుర్వినియోగించుట, ప్రజలలోను, అధికారులలోను, ఒక పరిపాటి అయిపోయి వారి వారి విద్యుక్త ధర్మములను నెరవేర్చుటయే మరచి పోయినారు. ముఖ్యముగా కొందరు అధికారులు వారివారి విద్యుక్తధర్మముల నెరవేర్చుట మానివేసి నిర్లక్ష్యస్వభావముతో భుండుట సహజమైంది. కాని ఇప్పుడిప్పుడే వారి ప్రవర్తనలు మార్పుకొని వారి విద్యుక్తధర్మముల నెరవేర్చుట వారికి విధి అని తెలిసి కొని ప్రవర్తించుటకు ప్రయత్నించుచున్నారు. పరిపాలనాయంత్రము అంతయు క్రింది

16th July 1952] [Sri N. Chenchurama Naidu]

అధికారులయొక్క సహకారము, కార్యదీక్షవల్లనే సక్రమమైన మార్గములో నడువ గలదు. అదియునుగాక గవర్నమెంటువారు తలపెట్టిన ప్రతి మంచి కార్యములోను ప్రజలయొక్క సహకారము లేనిది యే కార్యముకూడా జయప్రథముగా జరుగలేదు. అందువల్ల సామాన్య అధికారులు, ప్రజలు అందరుగూడా గవర్నమెంటువారు చేయు ప్రజోపయోగమైన కార్యములను సరియైన మార్గములలో ఆర్థముచేసుకొని గవర్నమెంటు వారికి పూర్తి సహకారము ఇప్పారని నేను ఆశించుచున్నాను.

“నా నియోజకవర్గమైన కందుకూరు, పొదిలి తాలూకాల ప్రజల ముఖ్య ఆవసర మైన పనులు కొన్ని యిక్కడ పేర్కొనుచున్నాను.

“కందుకూరు తాలూకా, రాళ్లపాడు ప్రాజెక్టు స్కీము ఇప్పటికి మాడు సంచ త్వరములనాడు శాంక్షక కామిటీ పని జరుగుచున్నది. రాళ్లపాడు, రెడ్డికాలవ స్కీములు రెండు కలసి రూ 54,54,000 లు మంజూరు చేయబడినవి. కాని ఇప్ప టికి పని ప్రారంభించి చూడు సంచత్వరములైనను సుమారు పది లక్షలు మాత్రమే ఖర్చుపెట్టియున్నారు. అందువల్ల పని చాలా ఆలస్యముగా జరుగుచున్నదని చెప్ప వలసియున్నది. ఈ సంచత్వరము 952-58 బడ్జెటులో రూ 9,37,000 లకు ఆలాటుమెంటు చూపించియున్నారు. ఈ మొత్తం త్వరగా ఖర్చుపెట్టినలెనని, అధికారులకు ఖచ్చితమైన ప్రత్యక్ష యివ్వవలెనని గవర్నమెంటువారిని కోరుచున్నాను.

“కందుకూరు తాలూకా, పాలేరు స్కీము ఓకటి, జిల్లేళ్లమూడి గ్రామంపద్ద ఒక ఆనకట్ట కట్టి విషయమై ఆనేక సంచత్వరాలనుండి investigation చేయబడి estimate ఇప్పుడు తయారై ఖర్చుచేయబడుచున్నది. ఈ స్కీమువల్ల సుమారు ఆరువేల ఎకరాల భూమి తవ్వక ప్రతి సంచత్వరము వండి, సుమారు 6, 7 గ్రామములకు జీవనము యేర్పడగలదు. ఆ స్కీము జిల్లేళ్లమూడి గ్రామంపద్ద ఆనకట్ట కట్టిన క్రింద గ్రామములను ఆనగా చిత్రి గుంట, కలికిపాడు, సోమరాజుపల్లి, పాకల, పూళ్లపాలెం, లిగినపల్లె గ్రామాలకు జీవ నాధారము కాగలదు. ఈ స్కీము యెవ్వ సంచత్వరాలనుండి ఆలోచనలో వుండి కార్యరూపము చాల్చలేదు. గనుక గవర్నమెంటువారు తవ్వక దీనిని మంజూరు చేయ వలెనని కోరుచున్నాను.

“పొదిలి తాలూకాలో మాకేరు ప్రాజెక్టు ఒకటి చాలాకాలమునుండి ప్రస్తావ నలో వుండి, యింతవరకు కార్యరూపము చాల్చలేదు. గవర్నమెంటువారు దయచేసి ఆ స్కీముకూడా ఆలోచించి మంజూరు చేయించవలెనని కోరుచున్నాను.

“గవర్నమెంటువారు యీ సంచత్వరము యీ రాష్ట్రములో ఏర్పడిన దుర్భర మైన కరువు సందర్భములో నెల్లూరు జిల్లాలో కనిగిరి, పొదిలి, వడ్ల తాలూకాలలో తొమ్మిది రోడ్డు పనులు మంజూరుచేసి జీవోపాధి లేని కూలీలకు జీవనము పనులద్వారా కల్పించియున్నారు. ఇటీవల భగవంతుని దయవలన వర్షములు కురిసిన కారణంగా యికమీద సదరు కూలీలకు వేరేపనులు దొరుకునని ఉద్దేశించి గవర్నమెంటువారు త్వరలో ఆ పనులు నిలిపివేయునట్లు ప్రత్యక్షాలు చేస్తారని తెలియుచున్నది. కాని వాస్తవంగా యీ వర్షముల వల్ల సీతీవాధ తగ్గినదేగాని కూలీలకు పనులు, ఆ తాలూకాలలో వ్యవసాయసంబంధమైన పనులు యీనాటికి యేమియు లేవు. ఇప్పుడు పనులు నిలిపివేయడం ఆ కూలీలు జీవనాధారం లేక మరియొకచోటికి పోవలసినదే. ఈ సందర్భంలో నెల్లూరు జిల్లా కలెక్టరుగారున్నా, నేనున్నా ఆ తాలూకాలో పర్య టించి కూలీలను స్వయంగా విచారించినాము. వారికి యీ పనులు తప్ప వేరే జీవనోపాధి యేమియు లేదు. గనుక తవ్వక ఈ పనులు యింకా చూడునెలలు ఆనగా కొత్త పంట పచ్చువరకు సాగించవలెనని గవర్నమెంటువారిని కోరుచున్నాను.

[Sri N. Chenchurama Naidu] [16th July 1952]

“ఇటీవల గవర్నమెంటువారు కరువుపనులు యికిమీదట పెండరు system మీద మామూలు పద్ధతిలో చేయవలసినట్లు భ్రతరువులు చేసియున్నారు. ఆ ప్రకారం చేసిన యెడల కూలీలకు పనులు కల్పించుటకు వీలువుండదు. ఆ procedure అంతా జరిపేటప్పటికి పనులు నిలిచి, కూలీలకు గవర్నమెంటువారు చేయదలచిన సహాయము యే మాత్రము దక్కదు. కనుక కరువుపనులు చేయవచ్చుడు అనుసరించు విధానం నే గవర్నమెంటు అనుసరించవలసినది, ఆ విధముగా జిల్లా కలెక్టరుగార్లకు భ్రతరువులు పంపవలసిన కోరుచున్నాను.

“ఆదియనుగాక కరువుపనుల క్రింద ఆధిక అహార ఉత్పత్తికిగాను కొన్ని చెరువు పనులు ప్రారంభించి వర్షమును కురిసిన వెంటనే ఆ పనులు అపిచేయవలసినట్లు భ్రతరువు లిచ్చియున్నట్లు తెలియుచున్నది. కూలీలకు పనులు జూతగలందుకుగాను సదరు పనులు యింకా కొంతకాలము చేయించినయెడల కూలీపనులు జేయవారికి పనులు కల్పించినట్లుగను. కాన ఆ పనులు అవకుండా చేయించవలసినది గవర్నమెంటువారిని కోరుచున్నాను.”

*SRI K. VEERANNA PADAL:—“ఆధ్యక్ష మహాశయా, నేడు సభ్యుల ఎదుట నున్న Budget demand ను బలపరుస్తూ, కోత తీర్చానమును వ్యతిరేకించుచూ మాట్లాడుచున్నాను. మన రాజధానికి చెందిన విశాఖపట్నం జిల్లా విజెస్సీ నూడెం తాలూకా సముద్రమట్టమునకు మూడువేలు అడుగులు ఎత్తుగల ప్రదేశమై యున్నది. ఈ ప్రాంతములో నివసించు కొండజాతి ప్రజల జీవములు చూచుటకు ప్రత్యేకముగా ఒక కలెక్టరువారిని నియమించుట ముఖ్య అవసరమని మనవిచేయుచున్నాను. ఆ ప్రాంతములలో ప్రజలకు రాకపోక సౌకర్యములు లేక పండించుకొన్న దినుసులు అక్కడి మనుష్యులు పుమారు అరవై, డెబ్బమైళ్ళ దూరముననున్న సంతలకు పోయి దినుసులు అమ్ముకొని ఉప్పు వగైరా తమకు కావలసిన వస్తువులు కొనుక్కుని మఱల కా తినడకలో నడుచుటదలన ప్రజలకు చాలా కష్టమగుచున్నది గాన విజెస్సీ ప్రాంతములలో రోడ్లు నిర్మాణము సాధ్యమైనంత త్వరలో పనులు చేయించుటకుగాను స్పష్టంగా విజెస్సీ ప్రాంతములకుగాను P.W.D. డిపార్టుమెంటువారిని విరూపి చేయించి రోడ్లు నిర్మించవ కోరుచున్నాను.

“విజెస్సీ ప్రజలు నూటికి నూరు పాళ్ళ విద్యాసౌఖ్యము లేని ప్రజలైయున్నారు. ప్రజల విద్యాభివృద్ధికిగాను విజెస్సీ ప్రాంతములలో ఉచిత వసతి, భోజన సౌకర్యములు hostels స్థాపించి, విద్యాభివృద్ధికి కృషిసల్పి విద్యార్థులకు agriculture మొదలైన ట్రయినింగ్ లు నేర్పి, కొండజాతులకు గ్రామాలకు ఉద్యోగములు ఇప్పిస్తూ, విజెస్సీ వాళ్లకు P.W.D. రివిన్యూ మొదలగు కింట్రాట్టు పనులు యిప్పిస్తూ విజెస్సీ ప్రజలను ‘encourage’ చేయించగోరుతాను. అంతేకాకండా విజెస్సీ ప్రాంతములలో గవర్నమెంటు ఎలిమెంటరీ స్కూళ్ళు యున్నవి. ఆయా స్కూళ్ళలో వివవ తరగతి చదువుకొని, మరల చదువుటకు మార్గము లేకయున్నది విజెస్సీకి దగ్గరగా నర్సీ పట్టంలోని హైస్కూలు జిల్లా బోర్డు వాళ్లదైయున్నది. సదరు బోర్డు హైస్కూలుపై గవర్నమెంటు ఆధిపత్యము వహించినట్లయిన ఆ హైస్కూలులో కొండజాతులకు గ్రామాల విద్యాభివృద్ధికి ఎక్కువ అవకాశమున్నదని మనవిచేయుచున్నాను. మఱియు విజెస్సీ ప్రాంతములలో ముందు ఎడ్యుకేషన్ ప్రభుత్వం యందేటప్పుడు జిల్లా కలెక్టర్లు విజెస్సీ ప్రాంతములలో ప్రతి పదిమైళ్ల దూరములో ట్రావలింగు బంకాలు నియమించుకొని, సంచారముచేయుచు, ప్రజల కష్టములు పరిశీలిస్తూ యుండేవారు. ఇప్పుడు జిల్లా కలెక్టర్లు సంచారము మానుకున్నారు. అందువలన ప్రజలకుభ్రష్ట కష్టములు పరి

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400 మందికి అవకాశములేదు. మరియు ప్రజలు తమతమ కష్టములు చెప్పుకొనుటకు కూడా అవకాశము చిక్కలేదని మనవి చేయుచున్నాను. అంతేకాకుండా విజెస్సీ ప్రాంతములలో నివసించు ప్రజలకు రోగనివారణ గురించి ప్రతి పదిహేను మైళ్ల దూరంలో ఓక్కొక్క 'Dispensary' పెట్టించి Medical officers కు ఓక్కొక్క van గాని Zeep గాని యిప్పించి ప్రజలకు వచ్చే మలేరియా వ్యాధిని తొలగించ కోరుచున్నాను. మరియు కొండజాతి ప్రజల తాబాకు భూములు, ఫలవృక్షములు వెల్లడినాటు ప్రజలు ఆక్రమణ చేయుకుండా 1917 వ సం॥ నె 1 రు ౫ల ఆర్డుపెట్టి సదరు ఆర్డు అమలులో యొక్కప్పటికి విజెస్సీ కొండజాతులువాటికి వెల్లడినాటి ప్రజలు ఏదో కొంత అప్పలు యిచ్చి, ఎక్కువ వడ్డీలు కట్టుకొని, చదువులేని కొండ జాతుల ప్రజల తాబాకు భూములు వెల్లడినాటి ప్రజలు ఆక్రమణ చేయుచున్నారు. అట్లు జరిగిన భూముల విషయమై ఒక కమిటీని వేయించి విచారించి, ఆ భూములు మరల కొండజాతి ప్రజలకు యిప్పిస్తూ, యికముందు అట్లు ఆక్రమణలు జరుగకుండా ప్రభుత్వం ఏర్పాటు చేయిస్తారని మనవి చేయుచున్నాను."

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, within the limited time available to me, I shall try my best to reply to the various criticisms made by hon. Members. Even though the Demand is for a particular Grant, it covers a vast field. Hon. Members, not content with that, referred to other departments like Education, Medical, Public Health, Electricity, etc. But, I shall confine myself to the remarks pertaining to this Demand. During the general discussion on the Budget, hon. Members are at liberty to make very general remarks; in fact, figuratively speaking, they can travel from China to Peru. Hon. Members literally did so here."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" On a point of order, Sir, I want to know whether the Hon. Minister is in order in going into the relevancy of the speeches made by hon. Members on the floor of this House. We thought the Hon. the Speaker is the authority on this matter. I therefore wish that the Hon. Minister would reply to the debate straightaway rather than go into the relevancy of the speeches."

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Sir, I never raised the question of relevancy. What I said was that the Demand itself covered a vast field and yet hon. Members not only spoke on that, but they spoke on other subjects also. I also said I would confine myself in my reply to the subject on hand. I don't know what the point of order is; perhaps it is in keeping with the other points of order raised by the hon. Member on previous occasions."

" Sir, the district administration is very important and it is more or less the plinth on which the whole structure of administration is raised in the State. Naturally everybody expects that the administrative system should be quite good. The district administration covers a vast variety of topics and represents a cross-section of the Government's progressive activities. It is concerned with the everyday administration of the districts, the maintenance and control of the vast army of officials (the gazetted

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and the non-gazetted) who man the district. There are various nation-building activities such as schemes for colonization for Military personnel and for the landless poor, expenditure from funds for village reconstruction and the development of the backward tracts.

“ Sir, the points raised by hon. Members may be summed up under different heads. Certain Members observed that there is a certain amount of corruption in the administration. Some said that the administration is inefficient while some considered that the system of *jamabandi* should be given up. An hon. Member pleaded for the scrapping of the Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue. I shall try to meet all these criticisms one by one.

“ With regard to land reforms, I want to say a word or two. In May 1950 the Government constituted the Land Revenue Reforms Committee to advise them, among others, in the matter of undertaking reforms in the land tenure and land revenue systems prevailing in the ryotwari areas of the State. The Committee functioned till the end of April 1951 and it submitted two reports to the Government, the first dealing with ‘land tenures’ and allied problems and the second dealing with ‘land revenue systems. The various recommendations of the Land Revenue Reforms Committee contained in its reports are under examination by the Government in the light of the previous reports of the Congress Agrarian Reforms Committee and of Sri N. Raghavendra Rao (formerly Special Officer for the investigation of land tenure systems in this State), the note prepared by the Curator, Madras Record Office, the remarks of the Board of Revenue and public criticisms appearing in the Press. All these things are being examined by the Government and very soon the Government will undertake to do what is necessary in the matter.

“ With regard to the Board of Revenue, the Government have on more than one occasion considered the desirability of the abolition of the Board of Revenue as a measure of retrenchment. The Madras Board of Revenue is a statutory body constituted under and regulated by Madras Regulation I of 1803 as modified by Madras Act I of 1894. The main functions of the Board are the general superintendence of revenues from whatever source they may arise and the recommendation of such propositions to the Government as in its judgment, may be calculated to augment and improve those revenues. In recent years, Commercial Taxes, Civil Supplies, Food Production and Settlement of Estates and for a short time Post-war Reconstruction, were added to the Board's subjects. On a close examination of the various functions attended to by the Board, the Government have come to the conclusion that it was not possible to administer efficiently the whole of the manifold activities of the Revenue Department by a single Head of the Department, such as the Inspector-General of Police or the Director of Public Instruction and that, though the five Commissioners of the Board worked independently in respect of their particular portfolios they have collective responsibility as a Board for various matters which were full Board subjects; and there was no greater expense to the State by their being designated as a Board,

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rather than as individual Commissioners for Land Revenue, Commercial Taxes, Civil Supplies, Settlement of Estates, or Food Production. It was also felt that the Board was a proper medium for the formulation of policy in respect of district administration on the revenue side and that this valuable function would be lost to Government if the Board was abolished. The advantages in having a Board outweigh considerably the disadvantages and past experience had shown that the Board of Revenue is peculiarly suited to the conditions of this State. The cost of the Board is low when compared to the importance and magnitude of the functions discharged by the Board. The question of abolition of the Board of Revenue was included in the terms of reference to the Land Revenue Reforms Committee constituted by the Government in May 1950. The Land Revenue Reforms Committee has observed that it is not necessary or desirable to introduce any radical changes in the general framework of the administrative machinery of the Revenue Department or to replace it by alternative agencies. One of the main recommendations of the Land Revenue Reforms Committee made in this connexion is that the Board of Revenue may remain but the Members of the Board of Revenue may also function as Secretaries to Government so that a separate Revenue Secretary will be necessary only to deal with questions which come up to the Government independently of the Board and with appeals against the decisions given by the Board as head of the department. The recommendations of the Land Revenue Reforms Committee on the above subject as well as other recommendations bearing on 'Land Revenue Reforms' and allied questions are being examined by the Government.

"A word about the Agency Administration, Sir. Generally speaking the 'Scheduled Areas' are comparatively more backward and underdeveloped than the ordinary areas. The Agency people are generally very poor and backward. Broadly, the general policy of the Government in regard to the administration of these areas has been the uplift of the people inhabiting these areas by gradual introduction of ameliorative measures intended to raise their standard of living by improving their economic condition. To this end, separate provision is being made in the State Budget for the administration of the Scheduled Areas. In the current year, a large number of development schemes at an estimated cost of Rs. 38.6 lakhs relating to land colonization, establishment of a tractor station, agriculture, fisheries, educational advancement of hill tribes, anti-malarial operations, general medical relief, etc., are proposed to be taken up for execution. These schemes will no doubt greatly help to ameliorate the conditions of the Scheduled Tribes.

"The hon. Member, Mr. Seethi Saheb, has referred to the Laccadive and Minicoy islands. He wanted to know where these islands are, what sort of people are living there and how the administration is going on there.

"The Laccadive and Minicoy islands constitute the southern group of the islands, nearly 200 miles off the West Coast. This

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group of islands—I shall not name them, Sir, because the pronunciation may be difficult—is attached to the Malabar district, and is under the control of the Collector of Malabar. Apart from Minicoy, the Laccadives consist of four islands. The total area is 6·87 square miles and the total population in 1951 was 13,655. The urani product of the islands is coir, in the disposal of which the Government execute a monopoly. They get the coir from the islanders and give them rice in exchange. These islands have all along been administered on simple lines owing to the backwardness of the people, arising from their being cut off from the mainland, especially during the monsoon when no communication with the islands is possible for nearly five months in a year from May to September. The immediate administrator in each island is an amin, a local influential man, who exercises civil and criminal jurisdictions and from whose decisions an appeal lies to the Collector or the Inspecting Officer when he visits the islands."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Please arrange a trip for us."

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The only normal means of communication between the mainland and the islands is by country-crafts called 'Odams'. If the hon. Leader of the Opposition is willing to travel by the 'Odam' I have no objection, but I will not accompany him.

" Steamers used to be chartered at a heavy cost for the use of Inspecting officers who visit the islands normally once in two years.

" Realizing that the islands could be administered better if communication with them was more frequent, the need for the frequent inspection and the provision of a vessel therefor has been stressed again and again. The suggestions made in this regard were examined and deferred for some reason or other. Recently, a Special Inspecting Officer, Sri S. Y. Krishnaswami, I.C.S., was deputed to the islands between December 1951 and February 1952 to study and report on matters connected with the reorganization of the administration of the islands. One of the recommendations in his report relates to the provision of communication with the islands. He has submitted detailed proposals for the purchase and maintenance of a vessel either by the Government or by a private agency. If his proposals are accepted, these islands could be visited by the steamer thrice within two months. The maintenance of the vessel would not only ensure better administration, but also open up passenger traffic and postal communication with the islands. The proposal along with other recommendations of the Special Inspecting Officer is under the consideration of the Board of Revenue in consultation with the Collectors of Malabar and South Kanara. The Government will examine the proposal on receipt of the Board's remarks."

SRI S. T. ADITYAN :—" On a point of information, I want to know whether coir is the only product found in Laccadive islands but not coconuts and dry fish also."

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* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—
“ Coir is the main industry. If the hon. Member says that coconuts and dry fish also are available there, I have no objection to take the information from him.

“ When under the Government of India Act, 1935, these islands became ‘ excluded areas ’, the position was that any Act of the Central or Provincial Legislature could apply only if a direction to that effect was made by the Governor. Such directions were made only in respect of a few important Acts. The reason why all the Acts applicable to the mainland do not, and cannot, apply to the islands is that the islands could not be included in the normal administrative set-up as they are far removed from the mainland and as they are cut off from the mainland completely for nearly five months in a year during the monsoon.

“ Some hon. Members were critical about police forces. There is at present no police force whatever in these islands. The Inspecting Officers have expressed themselves sometimes against sending any police to the islands. The Special Inspecting Officer has recommended the stationing of a small police force in each of these islands. This also will be considered by the Government on receipt of the remarks of the Board of Revenue.

“ At present, there is one elementary school in each of these islands. It is proposed to improve them in future.

“ There is one hospital in each of the islands except Agathi. The Special Inspecting Officer has recommended the opening of a separate hospital for Agathi. This will be considered on the remarks of the Board of Revenue.

“ I may say a word about Rayalaseema. Mr. Thimma Reddi is anxiously looking at me for hearing what I am going to say. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Famine Code Revision Committee, set up in 1938, the Ceded Districts Economic Development Board was constituted in 1941 for tackling the problems of the Ceded Districts. As the Board was not able to achieve any tangible results, it was abolished and the Rayalaseema Development Board was constituted in December 1949. On the recommendations of this Board, irrigation works such as Pennar-Kumudavati Project, Upper Pennar Project, Bhairavantippa Project, etc., have been taken up by the Government. At the instance of the Board, the Government have under consideration the desirability of opening a paint and lithopone factory. In view of the poor financial position of the district boards in Rayalaseema, the Government have sanctioned full grants to the district boards during 1951-52 for Road Development Programme. The hon. Member also referred to mobile units for digging wells and other amenities. I do not know whether he knows that I have always a soft corner for Rayalaseema. I will try to do my best for improving the conditions in that area. (Interruption.) I say it because it is adjacent to my district. At one time North Arcot was included in Chittoor district. So there is much affinity between North Arcot and the Ceded Districts.

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"The hon. Member, Mr. Ari Gowder, who comes from the top of the Nilgiris, pleaded for a college in his district. I am glad he has occupied a top place here also in a corner. (Laughter.) I very much sympathise with him; but the only thing is he won't listen to my advice. He is a very old and veteran Member. He had been a Member of the Legislature from 1923 except for a brief period. Suddenly he has become unreasonable. I only wish that he is as reasonable as he was in the old days. Then everything will be all right.

"Another hon. Member said that the Madras Secretariat is the best in India. But he complained that the district administration is very inefficient. Let us be proud that at least our Secretariat is the best in India. We shall try to improve the district administration also. As it is, let not hon. Members go away with the idea that our district administration is not good. Probably it is not on a par with the Secretariat. When compared to other States, our district administration is by far better. We will try our best to root out corruption as far as possible. There is no use simply pointing out the deficiencies again and again. We must all try to remove them. We shall do it.

"The hon. Member belonging to the Justice Party has referred to the Theni incident. Let me assure the hon. Member that final orders will be issued very soon.

"Some hon. Members directed their criticisms to the village officers and scrapping of the Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue. I cannot agree to such a thing being done. The district officials and others may have short memory. It is only for their reference and guidance that the Standing Orders are there. The only thing is there should be a human touch in the administration."

SRI VAVILALA GOPALAKRISHNAIAH :—"The Hon. Minister can preserve the Standing Orders in the Museum."

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—"Some hon. Members have referred to the discretionary grants allotted to the Collectors. They have pleaded for more grants being allotted to the Collectors. Let me tell hon. Members that we shall try, as far as our finances permit, to increase the grants whenever possible.

1-30 P.M. "Up to now, Sir, I have been talking about the remarks made by hon. Friends in front of me; now, I turn my attention to the remarks made by Members sitting behind me. It is of course very easy to meet the missiles thrown by persons sitting before me, but it is quite a difficult thing to meet the missiles thrown by those from behind. I am referring to the remarks made by my Friends, Mr. R. V. Swaminathan and Mr. Narayanaswami Naidu. Mr. Swaminathan is now trying to represent his district very ably; he wants this thing and that thing to be done for his district. It is quite natural, Sir, and I agree that the Ramanathapuram district lacks much of the facilities and amenities which some of the other

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districts enjoy. I may state that we are all trying to do what we can; and I request Mr. Swaminathan to co-operate with me and to help me in doing whatever I can for his district. Instead of throwing missiles at me from behind, let him come to me in a quiet way and explain to me whatever has got to be done; and I assure him that I will try to examine all his suggestions and do whatever is possible.

“ Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu referred, Sir, to the strained relations that exist between the mirasdars and the kisans. Yes, Sir, there are strained relations between the mirasdars and the kisans in the Tanjore district, in Shiyali, Kumbakonam, Aduthurai and other places. In fact, I may say I intended to visit those places about a month ago, but since the dispute at that time was settled in a way, I did not go there; but I may add this, that soon after the Budget session is over, I shall take an opportunity to visit the Tanjore district and also meet the hon. Member and others who are interested in the matter. Mr. Sambandam, who hails from Mayuram, whenever he sees me, tells me all about these things. So, when next I go there, I shall make the necessary enquiries, consult friends and try to do whatever is possible for solving this problem. It is only when the tenants and landlords are in amicable relations and it is only when they adopt a policy of give and take that everything will be all right. I do not unfortunately just at present remember the couplet from Tirukkural relating to this matter; if my Friend, Mr. Ramaswami, knows it, he may tell me on some other occasion.

“ Sir, it is past 1-30 p.m. and I know hon. Members are hungry and would like to adjourn for lunch. I shall, therefore, finish my speech with a closing remark. Sir, the Government have, through the Revenue Department, maintained District Administration at an efficient level and kept up the tradition of the efficient collection of land revenue. In a democratic era, they have impressed on all their officers the necessity to keep in close touch with the leaders of public opinion and to be courteous and considerate in their dealings with the general public. There were some cases of bribery and corruption among the subordinate grades of the revenue staff. This is perhaps the direct result of the introduction of various forms of control, as well as the grant of different kinds of subsidy and loans. The Government have established a Tribunal for Disciplinary Proceedings, for enquiring into all cases of corruption by officers drawing a salary of above Rs. 150 per mensem, and are awarding deterrent punishments such as disposal, or compulsory retirement in proved cases of corruption. They have continued the tradition of co-ordinating all departmental activities through the various heads of departments in the district under the supervision of the Collector.

“ It now remains for me to make a request to the hon. Leader of the Opposition, since I concede he is a very reasonable gentleman, and since I have now brought home to him the reasonableness of the whole thing—to be so good as to withdraw his cut motion.”

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SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“ Sir, because I am a reasonable man, I do not propose to withdraw my cut motion. (Laughter.) I press it.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ I now put the cut motion to the vote of the House. The question is—

‘ That the allotment of Rs. 5,96,15,400 for District Administration and Miscellaneous be reduced by Rs. 100.’ ”

The cut motion was lost.

MR. SPEAKER :—“ I shall now put the original motion to the vote of the House. The question is—

‘ That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,96,15,400 under Demand XI—District Administration and Miscellaneous.’ ”

The Demand was carried and the Grant was made.

MR. SPEAKER :—“ I wish to inform hon. Members that the House will sit to-day till 7 p.m. I now adjourn the House for lunch.

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

(2) DEMAND II—STATE EXCISE DUTIES.

* THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

‘ That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 77,91,100 under Demand II—State Excise Duties.’

“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was closely following the opinions expressed by several hon. Members both in the Assembly and in the Council during the general discussion of the Budget. No one has definitely stated that Prohibition has not improved the moral and economic condition of the great majority of the masses; not even a remark was made that the Government were wrong in introducing such a social measure which aims at the moral and economic uplift of the poor working classes as well as the Harijans. Indeed it is a great social reform to be effected by a Welfare State like ours. Section 47 of the Constitution expressly directs that the State shall, among its primary duties, endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption, except for medicinal purposes, of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health. The Government have, therefore, by maintaining the Prohibition policy, done their duty. What was begun in the year 1937 in some districts has been gradually extended throughout the State. The public also really welcomed this measure and its effective enforcement throughout the State and the Government took power under the Prohibition Act, and made all possible arrangements to give effect to this measure throughout the State. But unfortunately when the Congress Government went out of office during 1939 to 1946 the then Government thought it fit to undo the work started in 1937. This

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kind of retrograde step created an impression in the minds of the addicts and Prohibition law-breakers that this measure may not succeed; and some interested persons also joined hands with them to see that the policy of the Government did not succeed in times to come.

“Of late, the economic condition prevailing in the State, as also the continued failure of rains, has given a fillip to illicit distillation and sale, both in villages and towns.

“Several hon. Members, during the course of their speeches, have stated that this illicit distillation is very widespread. But the proportion of the common people who have taken to such illegal activities when compared to the persons who have neither any interest in the illicit manufacture or in its sale seems to be very very small. I believe our womenfolk will deeply regret any change of policy.

“The Congress candidates, in their election campaign, told the people that they stood by Prohibition and that they would continue that policy. I feel that the Congress Government are bound by that promise.

“The allegation is made that Prohibition has failed since illicit distillation and sale is spreading in the country. That is a matter to be tackled with. The Government intend to deal with it strongly. Some of the hon. Members opposite have definitely said that Prohibition need not be scrapped but effective steps should be taken to see that Prohibition works very successfully. One hon. Member, Mr. S. T. Adityan, has said that it cannot be immediately successful, and the possibility of success lies in preventing the younger generation from falling into the drink habit. What he earnestly appealed for, was the prevention of both the young and old from taking to the culinary essences containing a large percentage of alcohol. Judicial and legal pronouncements about medicinal and toilet preparations containing alcohol created some confusion and difficulty and led to wide abuse. Experience gained in the working of Prohibition has also brought to light several loopholes in the Prohibition Act and the Government are actively considering the whole matter of improved enforcement.

“Swami Sahajananda representing the Harijan community has strongly spoken in support of Prohibition, as otherwise that community is likely to be exploited by others.

“Dr. Soundaram Ramachandran, a lady social worker, has unequivocally expressed her strong support for Prohibition, pointing out that half of the population, viz., the womenfolk will never give their consent for scrapping Prohibition.

“But some other members want to scrap Prohibition for the sake of revenue, stating that the present financial condition of our State cannot afford to lose 16 crores of rupees that it was getting from Excise duties in previous years; but they, at the same time, are of opinion that the poor people should not be taxed in any measure of taxation undertaken by the Government.

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“ Sir, the improvement in the social and economical condition of the working classes, as is evidenced by the statistics of the Economic Adviser to the Government of Madras, shows that Prohibition is not a failure as some people describe it to be. I can assure the House that this great social reform is beginning to have its effect in the country in spite of several drawbacks. When I visited the great Irrigation Project areas in the Coimbatore and Malabar districts, where thousands of workers are employed, I learnt that the workers' families were saving decent sums of money and sending them by money orders, and by other means to their native homes for safe deposits; and, in fact, several women pathetically appealed to me in person not to scrap Prohibition. But these hon. Members forget that a large portion of this revenue, if Prohibition is scrapped, is to be got from poor people who are unfortunately falling a prey to drink. Therefore, Sir, they are not quite consistent in their financial policy. This matter has been mentioned very rightly by the Finance Minister in his speech when he replied to the Budget discussion. I need not add anything more on this policy.

“ Therefore, if the measure is looked at from the social, moral and economical aspects, this Government should only go on with the present Prohibition policy, but of course, they should be more vigilant and adopt more effective methods of enforcement. My earnest appeal to this hon. House is that hon. Members should give their wholehearted co-operation and support, both inside and outside the House, so as to strengthen the hands of the Government and make Prohibition a success. I want the House to give the Government full support. The doubts of the Legislature give encouragement to law-breakers. Whatever may happen, the Government are determined to increase the rigour of enforcement. If we fail, we shall tell the House we have failed. But we should have time. Sir, with these words, I commend this Demand to this hon. House.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ Motion moved—

‘ That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 77,91,100 under Demand II—State Excise Duties.’ ”

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—

‘ That the allotment of Rs. 77,91,100 for State Excise Duties be reduced by Rs. 100.’ ”

While doing so, I will agree unhesitatingly with the Hon. Minister and all those who said that Prohibition was one of the greatest of moral measures introduced by the Congress Government in 1937, with the best of motives and with the idea of benefiting the masses of this country. I am not questioning that, when I move my cut motion. Let me not be misunderstood. Nor do I say that Prohibition is not based on correct understanding of human needs or social order. I am one of those who believe that no man should drink and, if possible, we should try to do what we can to see that he does not drink. So, Sir, from the ethical point of view I have no quarrel with the Government. However, I must say, that there are several other propositions which are ethical but, when reduced

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to the juridic basement and considered in terms of enforcement by law, become impossible of enforcement and they become impracticable.

“Sir, when I agreed to have the Prohibition law in 1937, I agreed because, in those days, I thought, being a good and laudable measure, the law also would be useful in enforcing what is good in it. But I must say, after my experience all these years, that although the measure was conceived with good intentions, it is impossible of enforcement. However, I am not dogmatising on it. I will suspend my judgment. I am asking in the cut motion, that a Committee of both the Houses should be appointed to enquire into the working of the Prohibition law and report on the desirability of continuing Prohibition or otherwise, or modifying it if it is to be continued. I am suggesting that a Committee should be appointed because, with the same keenness with which the Hon. Minister feels that it can be enforced, most of the hon. Members of this House feel that its enforcement has become impracticable. It is not my own idea. If I were asked to give my opinion, I would say, ‘Cancel Prohibition now because it is impossible of enforcement’. But there are some others who feel that it is capable of enforcement. Therefore, it is only proper that, when there is a sharp difference of opinion, we must strike a middle path and we should agree to the appointment of a Committee of both the Houses to report about the working of the Prohibition law and make recommendations about the desirability of continuing it or otherwise. Sir, that it has failed, although I am saying that I am suspending my judgment for the time being, is evident from the speeches of some Members of the House who now occupy their seats on the Treasury Benches and of some who have occupied that place in the past. I shall quote for the information of the Hon. Minister for Prohibition a few opinions of some of those who have had something to do with the enforcement of Prohibition before they took up office as Minister. Sir, one Minister, Mr. Koti Reddi said that it has become practically impossible to enforce the Prohibition Act. Its enforcement has led to the widespread producing of illicit liquor in effect. Mr. Koti Reddi, Sir, is now not a Minister. Therefore I shall not pursue him. (Laughter.) But, Sir, the Hon. Sri Ranga Reddi, who is now a Minister—what did he say as a non-official Member? He has said something which is based on his experience, upon his reasoning and upon his observation. I shall only mention to the House what Mr. Ranga Reddi said in the General Discussion of the Budget for the year 1952-53—

2-45
p.m.

‘I only wish to mention that some hon. Members have objected to the criticisms levelled against the working of the Prohibition Act. I was feeling for a very long time that the Prohibition Act was not a complete success. But I did not have the boldness to express my opinion on the floor of the Legislative Council. However, when I found that a leader of the Congress organization who had also held a very high position had belled the cat and said that the Prohibition Act had not probably been a success, I thought he has given a correct lead in the matter.

‘He said that the whole question must be examined thoroughly and a decision arrived at as to whether the Prohibition Act should continue or not. It is not only in the Legislature, but outside also, I have found that other friends who had held the portfolio of Prohibition in the Ministry have spoken in the same strain. I am not anxious to quote the names of particular individuals. I wish to quote

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their names only because they have held the portfolio of Prohibition. Sri Koti Reddi was a Minister who held the portfolio of Prohibition for about a year during Sri Prakasam's Ministry and therefore he has a complete knowledge of the working of the Prohibition Act. About a year ago, in one of the Prohibition meetings presided over by the Collector, Sri Koti Reddi said, that the Prohibition Act was a thorough failure. His statement was published in the 'Mail' with very bold and big headlines. I am mentioning all these points only to show that this is a matter which requires further consideration. It is true we launched on this scheme with great hopes. May I tell you, Sir, that when I made my maiden speech as a member of the Madras Legislative Assembly in 1937 praising the introduction of Prohibition, I expected that it would bring considerable good to the people. But my experience, after the introduction of prohibition, of the way in which the Act has been working, and of the way in which very many people have taken to illicit distillation makes me feel that some revision of that policy ought to be made.

Sir, if I had not told you the name of Sri Ranga Reddi, but simply read it, as it is, friends would have taken that as my speech. Now, the Hon. Sri Ranga Reddi is on the Treasury Bench, and he has said, then, exactly what I am saying now. So let not friends who sit on the Congress Benches think that I am doing anything now by way of mere opposition.

"I wish to emphasise that I am as sincere as any other hon. Member in this House in my belief that no man should drink. But the question of Prohibition is different from the question of Prohibition law. Prohibition law has changed the whole structure of the problem. We started with certain assumptions when we introduced the Prohibition legislation. We made certain assumptions, firstly, that in India it was bound to succeed, for our genius was against drink. Secondly, we made another assumption that illicit distillation would be confined to certain secret centres. On these two assumptions we built our Prohibition Act. But now I find that the religious sanction and the moral sanction, which obtained among the people prior to the passing of the Prohibition Act, have lost their hold on them. Prior to the introduction of the Prohibition Act, many of our friends, who were accustomed to drink, used to be nervous in admitting that they were drinking. If at all they admitted it, they admitted it as a weakness. But now, those friends say, 'What is wrong in drinking; what is wrong in drink?' Therefore, the whole moral basis of our Prohibition structure has changed. You and I cannot stop it. For, it is like the coming and going of the seasons. You and I cannot stop the coming and going of the seasons. Similarly you and I cannot stop the passage of, or rather, the changing of thought and psychology of the people of this country or in any other country. Sir, I have quoted Mr. Ranga Reddi not with a view to twit the Hon. Mr. Ranga Reddi, nor to fling it in the face of the Congress Ministry. I am only appealing to the Congress Ministry, who are pledged to Prohibition and who support this measure, to understand what we are doing in all its implications. There were some Ministers who said that this Prohibition Act did not succeed, because the public did not co-operate. Why? I shall cite the reason presently. If there is a dead body on the road, people flock round it to see what it is, and after seeing what it is they feel it is their duty to report it to the police. If there is an injured person lying on the road, similarly, people flock round him, see what it is all about and see that he is taken to the hospital. Why do they do that? Because the spirit of co-operation

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with the Government is present in them. It is not dead ; it is alive and manifests itself in matters where co-operation with Government is necessary. They feel they are bound to co-operate with the Government in the enforcement of law. But that same seriousness of view is not present in them when they see a drunken person. Let the Hon. Minister, if he wants, make a class of people as informers. He cannot expect to have the whole nation as a nation of informers; he cannot say, apart from the question of ethics, the people are not doing that duty. When they go and report about an injured person lying on the road, they feel it is their moral duty to do so. But they do not consider it as of supreme value or importance when they see a person drunk, to take it upon themselves to take him to the police station or to file a complaint and attend the Prohibition Court day-in and day-out to see that the drunkard is punished. So there is no use saying, ' If the people want to do it, it will succeed.' I am not a person who says that we should have a ' Bhu Kailasam ' here. I am not criticizing the intentions of the Government. What I am saying is that we should understand human nature. There is no use saying that people are not co-operating. There is no use complaining that if they see a drunken man in the street, they do not report it to the proper authorities. I am asking some of our hon. Members here, particularly the hon. Lady Member who made a fervent appeal, I ask her, if a drunken man came across her path, would she immediately go to the nearest police station and report? With all our fervour and earnestness it has not been possible for the people to co-operate. Neither the Prohibition department nor the Police department have been able to do it. For we have all been witnessing what they were doing all along. An Hon. Minister has been saying it is impossible to work the Act. So why not take a lesson from their experience? I am not in my cut motion asking the Hon. Minister to cancel Prohibition. I am asking the Government to have an open mind. I am asking them not to close their minds on this question because of their conviction and because of the weight of leadership over their shoulders. All of us are convinced of the result of the working of the Prohibition Act and must accept it. I am not making a distinction between a Member sitting on that side and one on this side in regard to this matter. We have to recognize that we have not succeeded in enforcing that Act. Meanwhile we have lost a great deal of our revenue. We have also lost with it the moral force underlying it, and we have to see also what effect it has had on society. That is why I am spending some time over this question. Now, Sir, there is smuggling going on in drink, there is illicit preparation of tinctures containing a large percentage of alcohol going on ; there are alcoholic preparations made for medicinal, sacramental and industrial purposes. Then what do we see in the village? There is home-brewing going on so much so that it has been jocularly said that illicit distillation has become a cottage industry. When we introduced Prohibition we imagined that illicit distillation will be confined to secret places only. But our expectations have been belied. If only one goes from village to village, from street to street, he will see that it has become a very widespread practice to prepare and distil illicit liquor not in some secret

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place but in ordinary houses. Therefore it is, it has become almost impossible to enforce Prohibition. There you see almost every boy, every woman and every man possessing or dealing in illicit liquor in such places. It is not that all of them drink. Some of them have it to make money out of it.

“ In this connexion let us recall to our mind how coffee drinking was looked upon when coffee made its first appearance. I remember it came to Visakhapatnam in 1911 on a public scale. People used to flee from coffee hotels, for they thought that coffee was something deadly bad. It took two or three years for the people to get over that feeling. Coffee was at first not prepared in our houses. The women would not prepare it. They said ‘ What, you want coffee to be prepared in the house! ’ Gradually it came to be prepared in course of time. Now it has become one of the most important items and a girl cannot expect to be married unless she is able to prepare good coffee. (Laughter.) Now it is the same thing that is happening to drink. It is no longer prepared in secret places. Our assumption that illicit distillation would be carried on in secret places only, has proved to be wrong. I do not say we are wrong in our principle. I only say that our assumption has proved wrong. We must think about it afresh. I quoted only the words of the Hon. Sri Ranga Reddi and Sri Koti Reddi. Should I not quote the Hon. Mr. A. B. Shetty? (Laughter.) In the month of March last, in the general discussion of the budget, he said, the whole problem must be considered afresh. The same thing has been said by Mr. Gopala Reddi, who had a bitter experience of the working of the Prohibition scheme as it affected his portfolio most. So, Sir, what I am now saying in my speech is not anything new. I am only saying what the Hon. Mr. Ranga Reddi has said in his speech before, what the Hon. Mr. A. B. Shetty has said in his speech before, what Mr. Gopala Reddi has said and what Mr. Koti Reddi has said.”

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—“ What has the Hon. Palaniswami Gounder said about it? ” (Laughter.)

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“ I am sorry the Legislature Library is not here and so I have not been able to get at the speech of the Hon. Mr. Palaniswami Gounder.

0 p.m. “ Sir, the distance of the library has practically helped him to escape any criticism from this point of view. (Interruption from the Hon. Sri V. C. Palaniswami Gounder.) I know, Sir, he will probably say that Prohibition has succeeded in full. I remember that he was generally speaking in the last Assembly as I always do, except for the fact that in the first and last sentence of his speech he used to support the Government. There is nothing wrong in this for both of us have the same moral fervour and the same ethical basement on which we are building our structures of public administration. In our anxiety to improve the existing state of affairs we have to say all these things.

“ There is also another reason why Prohibition has failed. It is not an all-India policy. Unless it is made an all-India policy and

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enforcement is attempted on an all-India-wide scale it is not possible to enforce Prohibition with your Goas, Pondicherris and Bangalores. It will be mere moonshine to say 'Give us a year's time or six months' time and we will make of this earth a heaven.' The Government have not been able to do this in the last five years and during the four months the present Government have been in office, and I do not think they will be able to do anything even if six more months are given. Not only this, but even Sri Jawaharlal Nehru—I am not casting any reflection upon the great Prime Minister of India—has created, as it were, a rift in the lute. He advised the State Governments to go slow. What did those two words 'go slow' mean? The people understood it to convey one thing but the Hon. Minister in charge of enforcement of Prohibition did not understand it in that particular way. The words 'go slow' from a man of that eminence have had their effect and unless Sri Jawaharlal comes again and says 'go fast' this effect will persist. We must take this also into account.

"We often talk about other countries and recently, I am told, that the Hon. the Chief Minister is satisfied that some American books have made some appreciative references about our prohibition policy. I am not anti-American but I shall say, Sir, what America is. Most of the present hon. Members were not in this Assembly when we were faced with starvation deaths. Did not the Americans then higgie to give us wheat, not as a loan, not as charity but for money. Shall we take this kind of appreciation from this America very seriously? (Applause.) I am therefore warning all those friends who look to America which was higgling over money when we were about to die, and I shall be very cautious in accepting any appreciation, whatever it might be, from America and I shall not accept it.

"Sir, I shall not speak about corruption which has become widespread on account of this Prohibition Act. Some hon. Friends have asked, 'Was there not corruption before the Prohibition Act?' I know that wherever there is regulation there is corruption. Unfortunately, in this country, as light carries shadow with it, regulation carries corruption with it. Therefore it is your duty and my duty not only to frame our laws but also to regulate the field of their operation in such a way that corruption does not increase. There is no use therefore in saying: 'There is corruption and therefore I shall increase the regulations. There is more corruption on account of the increased regulations and I shall therefore increase the regulations further.' The more you increase the regulations the wider becomes the field for corruption. I therefore want the Hon. Ministers and the hon. Members here to understand that corruption follows regulation and it should be our duty to minimize the field of corruption. Sir, nobody says that adultery is good, but why did not the framers of the Indian Penal Code say that adultery was a cognizable offence? They were not fools to have said that a case of adultery could be taken up and enquired into only on a complaint. Had they made adultery a cognizable offence life itself would have become a whole field for corruption and corruption would have spread throughout the length and

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breadth of this country. Then, Sir, take another example, truth speaking. I say, Sir, without any vanity on my part, that I believe in truth and in saying the truth. I have always believed in saying what I felt was the truth. I have not got even the intellectual capacity to prevaricate. I always stick to the truth but, Sir, if we made untruth an offence everywhere, will it be possible for this Government, even if the great rishis who talked about truth and Satya came again, to enforce the law making untruth an offence everywhere. Even our ancient law-makers have laid down that speaking an untruth in particular circumstances is not an offence."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has already taken more than twenty minutes."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"I am very sorry, Sir, for having taken a long time and I request you to give me ten more minutes."

SRI S. T. ADITYAN:—"Sir, we will make an adjustment among ourselves and the hon. Member may continue."

MR. SPEAKER:—"It is not a question of adjustment among Members."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"I am sorry, Sir, and I shall finish quickly. I was pleading for restricting the scope of our laws. Even the criminal laws prior to the Prohibition Act had made drunkenness and brawls or quarrels on account of drunkenness criminal offences. I am not saying that we should abolish them. I may also tell you, Sir, that I am not pleading for an immediate vote for the cancellation of prohibition. I am only pleading for the constitution of a committee to go into these aspects which I have mentioned.

"Sir, many hon. Friends have asked, 'What did Gandhiji tell us? Does not the Constitution say that prohibition must be introduced?' The Constitution only says that the States 'should endeavour to bring about prohibition', but it does not say 'the States should endeavour to bring about prohibition by law.' The Constitution-makers are not so forward as most of us here are. They only said 'bring about prohibition'. They were not certain whether it should be brought about by moral sanction or religious sanction or by the enforcement of law because of the past failures and the continuing failures of prohibition not only in foreign countries but in our country. Therefore, they only laid down a directive principle in the Constitution to bring about prohibition. The Hon. Minister asked me whether I would like to see the poor man affected. I am only saying that it is not a tax. If a man drinks he pays for it and, if he does not drink, he does not pay at all. Sir, some of us in our enthusiasm said that Government servants, particularly those who were getting their uniform at Government expense, should be compelled to wear Khadi. Did not Sri C. Rajagopalachari then say that Khadi must be the voluntary dress of a gentleman, and it cannot be the compulsory wear

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of Government servants. We cannot compel anybody to drink. A man pays voluntarily when he drinks and if could not therefore be called a tax. It will be so much the better if everybody refuses to drink and none will be more glad than myself. As I have already said, if there is a regulation of private habits, there is corruption. You can improve the lot of the poor man not by bringing in prohibition even after seeing that it had failed all these years in Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, and in America but by bringing in measures which would give every citizen adequate means of livelihood; and which would ensure that ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good. We must see that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment, that the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength. We must organize the community in such a way that we give them real independence and real swaraj. (Interruption: 'Not by law.') Village Swaraj can only be given by law because it is an administrative measure. We must make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want. It is these things that will go a long way to help the poor man and this could not be achieved by extra taxation or by increasing the rigour of the Prohibition Law or by continuing the unsuccessful attempts at enforcing prohibition. I, therefore, submit, Sir, that if we have got the interests of the poor man at heart we should do first things first. We must improve our agricultural economy, and improve the capacity of this country to produce more wealth. We must see that every man in this country has got a house to live in, has got two square meals a day and his stomach is not empty, has got education and that he is not out of work. Let us give our citizens health, wealth and shelter. First things should come first.

"I am only appealing to this House that it should support the Cut Motion. I am only asking that this should not be considered on party lines or party needs and hon. Members who have got a conviction of their own should not be burdened by the thought of what a party leader might or might not say. It is true that we have got a party system and we do discuss these things at party organizations, but this does not mean that we should lose the strength or the courage of our conviction and I am appealing to every hon. Member on this side and that side to vote according to their conviction. After all the vote is only for the constitution of a committee of both Houses to enquire into the whole matter. I, therefore, think, Sir, it is a very reasonable proposition and everyone who has got the good of this country and the good of the poor at heart should support this Cut Motion. Thank you, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—"It has been moved that the allotment of Rs. 77,91,100 for State Excise Duties be reduced by Rs. 100. The

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purpose of the Cut Motion is to discuss the need for the appointment of a committee to review the working of the Prohibition Act and report on the desirability of continuing it or otherwise. The original Motion as well as the Cut Motion are before the House. The discussion on this Demand will continue up to 7 p.m. to-day and the Hon. Minister in charge will reply tomorrow after question hour. I fix a time-limit of only ten minutes for each speaker."

* SRI L. C. PAIS :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the main Demand and oppose the Cut Motion and in doing so I wish to make a few submissions. The first submission I wish to make is that it will be necessary for the Government to have a new study of the problem of prohibition in all its aspects, especially the enforcement aspect of it. Whereas Sri T. Viswanatham wants that this study should be conducted by a committee, it is my submission that it should be conducted by the Hon. the Chief Minister alone. If on the results of this study or of this investigation carried out by him, he comes to the conclusion that prohibition has done some good, especially to the masses, and that prohibition is capable of being enforced properly, I will be the first person to agree with him and accept his finding, but if, at the same time,—he is the proper judge in my opinion so far as this point is concerned—as a result of this investigation, he comes to the conclusion that it is not capable of being properly enforced and that it is difficult to drive moral reform into the minds and hearts of men, he will be the first person to alter his policy. He will either end it or amend it suitably. In the matter of this new study to which I have referred, I find I am powerfully supported by the press. The *Madras Mail* has taken a very consistent attitude in this matter. I also find that there has been a very constructive leading article in the *Hindu* of the 12th instant. I do not want to refer to this editorial in detail but I want to make a reference to the final remark in it, namely. 'The new study of this problem is urgent.' As I said the difference between what I want and what Sri T. Viswanatham wants is that, while he wants that the problem should be studied by a committee, I would rather prefer that it should be studied by the Hon. Sri C. Rajagopalachari himself.

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p.m.

"Coming to my second submission, I would suggest that, pending this investigation, this study by the Hon. Chief Minister, the Government should look into the following two matters.

"Firstly, I want that the system of granting liquor permits which is now in vogue should be liberalized. At present, it is only a few chosen people, a few rich people, who can afford to get liquor permits. I want this benefit to be extended to others also who are really in need of liquor and who are accustomed to taking liquor and I do not see any reason why they should be treated as a separate category.

"Secondly, I submit that the manufacture and sale of sweet toddy should be liberalized. So far as sweet toddy is concerned, I need not say that it is an article of food. It contains vitamins. It, certainly, is not an intoxicant. To-day objection is taken to regularize or liberalize the use of sweet toddy because if sweet

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toddy is kept for a while it gets fermented. My answer to this objection is very simple. I ask, 'which is a greater evil, a person keeping this sweet toddy for a while and drinking it after it is fermented, or a person not having anything to drink, going after essences and other poisonous liquors to the detriment of his health?' In South Kanara, we have asked for permission to manufacture and sell sweet toddy. The Food Production Committees have passed resolutions unanimously demanding that the manufacture and sale of sweet toddy should be permitted. So far, the Government have done nothing. If only the Hon. Minister in charge of Prohibition who is complaining that there is no proper public co-operation, liberalizes the system of granting liquor permits and allows the sale and manufacture of sweet toddy, I dare say that proper public co-operation will be forthcoming. Every man wants some little enjoyment in life. Some people find enjoyment in race clubs or in the golf course or over a cup of wine. I am sure, the hon. Members of this House will agree with me, when I say that a glass of sweet toddy is as good as a cup of wine, and that the Government will get the much needed co-operation from the public, which is not now forthcoming, if only the people are permitted to make free use of sweet toddy.

"Next, I want to refer to the enforcement aspect of Prohibition. If Prohibition to-day is unpopular and if the Government which is carrying out this policy of Prohibition is unpopular, it is because of the way and the manner in which this policy of Prohibition is being enforced. There is harassment at every stage and at every step. If only people are not harassed in the matter of the administration of this policy of Prohibition, greater co-operation from the public will be forthcoming. That is the next submission I wish to make. I know cases of good and honest people having been booked for offences under the Prohibition Act while people concerned in illicit liquor trade go scot-free. I hope the Hon. Minister in charge of Prohibition will look into this matter of harassment of the people and see that it is stopped.

"Finally, I want to refer to one more point. There is a growing conviction in the minds of the people that respect for law and order is being undermined because of the policy of Prohibition. The argument is simple. Good laws are obeyed; bad laws are disobeyed. The Prohibition Law is disobeyed and therefore it is a bad law. I find that even Mr. Gopala Reddi has referred to this aspect of the matter in his speech on the General Discussion of the Budget for the year 1952-53 in the last Legislative Assembly. He has practically come to the conclusion that if a law is disobeyed, it is generally taken for granted that it is a bad law. This point, Sir, requires clarification. I expect an answer to the question, Sir, whether the policy of Prohibition by the way people try to circumvent it does not tend to undermine respect for law and order. I want the Government to tell us, whether it is so or not. I have got to say something more on this subject, but as I have got no time, I conclude my speech."

(At this stage the Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair.)

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SRI D. KRISHNAMURTHY GOUNDER:—“கனம் உப தலைவர் அவர்களே, இந்தச் சபை முன்பு கொண்டுவரப்பட்டிருக்கும் இந்த மதுவிலக்கு மானியத்தை நான் எதிர்க்கின்றேன். மதுவிலக்குத் திட்டமானது வெற்றி பெறவில்லை; அது தோற்றுவிட்டது என்பதை ஒப்புக் கொள்ளவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. அப்படி அது தோற்றுவிட்டபோதிலும், கனம் நண்பர் ஸ்ரீ பழனிசாமி கவுண்டர் போன்றவர்கள் அதை ஒப்புக்கொள்ளாமல், ஒரு பிடிவாதமாக அதை நடத்தவேண்டுமென்று தீர்மானித்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்று நினைக்கின்றேன். சர்க்கார் என்னதான் செய்தாலும் மது ஒழிப்பு கனவாகத்தான் முடியுமென்று எண்ணவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. ஆதிகாலமுதற் கொண்டே வேத புராணங்களிலும் அதைப்பற்றி சொல்லப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. தெய்வங்களுக்கும் கூட மதுவை வைப்பதாகவும், சர்வசாதாரணமான முறையில் மது வழங்கப்பட்டதாகவும், மற்றும் அவர்கள் அன்றாட வாழ்கையில் அதை உட்கொண்டார்களென்றும் தெரியவருகிறது. ஏழைகளுக்கு மது சத்தான உணவாக இருந்தது. மேலும், மனிதனுடைய சுதந்திரத்தையே இந்த மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தினால் ஒழிப்பதாக இருக்கிறது. மது வினால் பல நன்மைகள் ஏற்பட்டன. ஆனால், சில சாரார் ‘அது மிகத் தீயது’ என்று சொல்லலாம். வைத்திய முறையிலும், மற்றும் பல முறையிலும் மதுவை ஒரு அளவுக்குமேல் சாப்பிடாமல், கட்டுப்பாட்டுடன் சாப்பிட்டால் அது உடலுக்கு பலத்தையும், ஆரோக்கியத்தையும் கொடுக்கும் என்று கூறியுள்ளார்கள். ஆனால், அரசாங்கத்தார் ‘மது மிகத் தீயது’ என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். எப்படியிருந்தாலும் மதுவை ஒழிப்பது என்பது மிகவும் கஷ்டமான காரியம்.

“இப்பொழுது இந்த மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தினால் ஏழை ஜனங்கள் தான் அதிகமாகப் பாதிக்கப்படுகிறார்கள். அது ஒரு குடிசைத் தொழிலாக மாறி விட்டது. மற்ற குடிசைத் தொழில்களைப்போல் மிக கலப்பான முறையில் தயாரிக்க எல்லோரும் இதை அறிந்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டம் வருவதற்கு முன்னால் ஏதோ 4, 5 மைலுக்கு ஒரு கள்ளக்கடை இருக்கும். அங்கு போய் குடித்துவிட்டு வருவார்கள். ஆனால், இப்பொழுது ஒவ்வொரு வீடும் ஒரு கட்டையாக மாறிவிட்டது. குழந்தைகளும், ஆண்களும், பெண்களும் மது அருந்துவதற்குப் பழகிவிட்டார்கள். ஏனென்றால், வீட்டிலேயே அது காய்ச்சப்படுவதால், தாராளமாக அது கிடைக்கின்றது. தாராளமாகக் கிடைக்கிறதென்று சொன்னால், அது மிகையாகாது. ஆகையால், மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை எடுத்துவிடுவதே மேல் என்று நினைக்க வேண்டியிருக்கிறது.

“நமது நாட்டில் போதிய கல்வி யறிவு கிடையாது. மற்றும், வைத்திய வசதிகளும், கிராம ரோடுகளும் போதுமான அளவு கிடையாது. பல முக்கியமான செலவுகளுக்குப் பணம் வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. கிராம நலன்களுக்கான முக்கியமான சீர்திருத்தங்களைச் செய்யவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. ஆகையால், ஜனங்களுக்கு இம்மாதிரி சட்டபூர்வமாக மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தைக் கொண்டுவந்து கட்டாயப்படுத்துவதைவிட, அவர்களுக்கு கல்வி புகட்டுவது மூலமாகவும், மற்றும் போதனைகள் மூலமாகவும் மது அருந்தாமலிருக்கப் பாரடுவேண்டும். ஆகையால், கொஞ்ச காலத்திற்கு மது விலக்குச் சட்டத்தை ரத்துசெய்துவிட்டு, அப்படி அதிலிருந்து வரும் கலால் வருமானத்தைக்கொண்டு ஏழை ஜனங்களுக்கு வேண்டிய உதவியைச் செய்தால் மிக நன்றியிருக்குமென்பது என்னுடைய அபிப்பிராயம்.

“ஏழைகளுக்கும் பணக்காரர்களுக்கும் வித்தியாசம் இருக்கிறது. அரசாங்கத்தில் பெரிய பெரிய உத்தியோகத்தில் இருக்கின்றவர்களுக்கும், பணக்காரர்களுக்கும் அன்னிய நாட்டு மது (foreign liquor) பெர்மிட் தாராளமாக வழங்குகிறார்கள். ஏழைகளால் அந்தப் பெர்மிட்கள் வாங்குவது கஷ்டம். இதனால், ஏழைகளுக்கும் பணக்காரர்களுக்கும் ஒரு வித்தியாசம் இருக்கிறது. பணக்காரர்கள் குடிக்கவேண்டுமென்றால், foreign liquor-க்கு பெர்மிட் வாங்கி, வேண்டிய அளவு குடித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகையால்தான், மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை ஒழித்துக்கட்டி விட வேண்டுமென்று சொல்கிறேன். நாங்கள் தேர்தலில் நின்ற போது அதை ஒழிக்கிறோமென வாக்குறுதி கொடுத்தோம். முக்கியமாக ஜனங்களிடத்தில் இது சம்பந்தமான வோட்டு எடுத்தால், மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்

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திற்கு எதிராகத்தான் வோட்டு கொடுப்பார்கள். கட்சிக் கட்டுப்பாடுக்கு உட்பட்டிருப்பதால் காங்கிரஸ் அங்கத்தினர்கள் மதுவிலக்குக்கு சாதகமாக வோட்டுச் செய்வார்கள். வெளிப்படையாக வோட்டுச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்றால், அவர்கள் சாதகமாகச் செய்வார்களே தவிர, ரகசிய முறையில் வோட்டுச் செய்தால், எனக்குத்தான் சாதகமாக முடியுமென்று நான் தைரியமாகச் சொல்லுகிறேன். பொதுஜன வோட்டு எடுத்தாலும் இதற்கு எதிராகத்தான் இருக்கும். ஆகையால், தயவு செய்து விண் பிடிவாதம் கொள்ளாமல், மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை ரத்து செய்துவிட்டு வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு சர்க்கார் கொண்டுவந்திருக்கும் மான்யத்தை எதிர்த்து, வெட்டுப் பிரேரணையை ஆதரித்து என்னுடைய பேச்சை முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.”

* SRI P. T. RAJAN :—“ Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there can be no two opinions about the need for Prohibition provided it can be worked successfully. The other day, I observed that I am no faddist. I am not against Prohibition or for Prohibition. My only point is that if we have Prohibition, it must be given effect to and worked successfully. It has been not only my experience but of others also that liquor-making has become a cottage industry.”

SRI S. T. ADITYAN :—“ A large-scale industry ! ”

* SRI P. T. RAJAN :—“ I am told liquor-making is going on on a large scale. I am reminded of what my friend Mr. Saldanha, a distinguished Member of the old Legislative Council, used to say, ‘ If you give us drinks, give us good drinks; otherwise abolish drinks.’ If the Government want to give effect to Prohibition, let them do it well by all means, and not allow people to take to poisonous drinks which affect not only their health but also the health of the coming generation. The Leader of the House made a statement the other day that if they removed Prohibition, they would be only taxing the poor people. It is a very ingenious argument. If the Hon. the Chief Minister feels that the poor people should not be taxed, especially in the matter of drinks, let there be no excise duty on drinks. That is what I will say to him if he is so mindful of the welfare of the poor people.

“ Sir, a Cut Motion has been moved by the Leader of the Opposition asking that a committee consisting of Members of this House be constituted to go into the whole question of the working of Prohibition and make, if necessary, recommendations to the Government. It is a very modest request on the part of the Opposition. It will be a good gesture on the part of the Government to accept that Cut Motion and give an opportunity to the Members of this House to find out how far Prohibition has been a success.

“ During the War, when there was the Advisers’ regime, I suggested to the Adviser in charge of Food to introduce control of foodgrains. He replied: ‘ You are asking for the control of foodgrains. But you will be the first to complain that corruption has increased by leaps and bounds because of the control. To administer control, a number of subordinate officials will have to be appointed and they may not be above temptation.’ Those who

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have to see that the law is obeyed are themselves corrupt. On this ground, I feel that Prohibition should go. If the Hon. Chief Minister is very keen on enforcing Prohibition, let the committee examine the case. My Friends on the Opposition have been saying that, given the opportunity, they will co-operate with Government. Here is an opportunity for the Government to accept the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition and enlist the co-operation of all sides of the House. After all, a committee will go round, study the position, gather information and make recommendations to the Government. It is not going to enforce prohibition. In the meantime prohibition will continue. If the Hon. Minister makes it a success overnight, well and good, and the House will accept prohibition. The acceptance of the cut motion will not in any way conflict with the policy of the Government. I do not propose to take any more time of the House. I only appeal to the Government once more to accept this modest proposal of the Leader of the Opposition and give an opportunity to not only the Members of the Ministerialist Party but to the whole House to see how far prohibition could be enforced effectively or be done away with."

* SRI P. S. NALLA GOUNDER:—"கனம் உதவி சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, மதுவிலக்கு மந்திரி அவர்கள் கொண்டுவந்த மாயங்க கோரிக்கையை நான் முழுமனதுடன் ஆதரிக்கின்றேன். மதுவிலக்குத் திட்டத்தினால் ஜனங்களுக்கு நன்மை தான் ஏற்படும் என்பதை எதிர்க்கட்சித் தலைவர்கூட மறுக்கவில்லை. மதுவிலக்கானது கிராமங்களிலுள்ள பாமர மக்கள் நன்றாக வாழ வசதி செய்துகொடுத்திருக்கிறது. குறிப்பாக ஹரிஜனங்களும், பிற்பட்ட வகுப்பினரும் மதுவிலக்கினால் நன்மையடைந்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதில் சந்தேகமேயில்லை. பஞ்சகாலமாக இருந்தம்கூட, கிராமங்களிலும், சேரிகளிலும் இருக்கக்கூடிய ஹரிஜனங்கள் இப்பொழுது வயிறு உண்ணக்கூடிய நிலையில் இருக்கிறார்கள். நல்ல உடை உடுத்திக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள், பெண்கள் நகைகளும் கூட அணிந்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அப்படியிருக்கும்போது மதுவிலக்குத் திட்டம் தோல்வி அடைந்துவிட்டது என்று சொல்வது சரியாகாது.

"ஆனால், சில இடங்களில் மதுவிலக்குத்திட்டம் நன்றாக நடைபெறவில்லையென்பது வாஸ்தவம். அதற்குக் காரணம் என்ன? சென்ற தேர்தலின்போது, காங்கிரஸ் அபேட்சகர்களுக்கு விரோதமாக நின்றுவர்களில் சிலர் பழைய குடிகாரர்களிடம் சென்று, 'நாங்கள் களுக்குக் கடைகளை மீண்டும் திறந்துவிடுகிறோம், நீங்கள் நன்றாக குடிக்க வசதி செய்து தருகிறோம்' என்னெல்லாம் சொன்னார்கள். மேலும், மரமேறும் தொழிலாளர்களிடம் சென்று, அவர்களுடைய தொழிலை மறுபடியும் நடத்துவதற்கு வழி செய்வதாகவும், தாங்கள் தேர்தலில் ஜெயித்து வந்தால், களுக்குக் கடைகளை மீண்டும் திறந்துவிடுவதாகவும் பிரசாரம் செய்தார்கள். குடியானவர்களுக்குத் திருட்டுச் சாராயம் ஊத்தியும் அவர்களுடைய வேட்டைப் பெறுங்கள்; இதன் காரணமாகத்தான் பாமர மக்களுக்கு மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை மீறுவதற்கு ஒரு உணர்ச்சியும் துணிச்சலும் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது.

"மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவருவதற்கு தனி போலீஸ் ஏற்பாடு செய்யப்பட்டிருந்தது, முன்னால். ஆனால், பரிசுடார்த்தமாக அந்தப் போலீஸ் எடுக்கப்பட்டிருந்தது. இப்பொழுது ஏற்பட்டிருக்கின்ற அதிகாரிகள், வேறு அதிக வேலையின் காரணமாக மதுவிலக்குக் குற்றங்களைக் கண்டுபிடிப்பதில் போதிய அவகாசமில்லாமல் சிரத்தை குன்றிப் போய்விட்டது. திடீரென்று கிராமங்களில் கட்சுச் சாராயம் (திருட்டுச் சாராயம்) காய்ச்சும் இடங்களில் பிரவேசிப்பதற்கு அவகாசம் இருப்பதில்லை. அவர்களுக்குப் போக்குவரத்து வசதிகளும்மில்லை.

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“நீதி நிர்வாகப் பிரிவின் காரணமாகவும் மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டம் சரியாக அமல் நடத்தப்படமுடியாமல் போய்விட்டது. ஏனென்றால், குற்றம் செய்பவர்களுக்குத் தகுந்த தண்டனையைக்கொடுப்பதில்லை. அதிகாரிகள் தீர விசாரித்து சரியான தண்டனை விதிக்காமல், குறைந்த தண்டனையைக் கொடுத்துவிடுகிறார்கள். 5 ரூபாய் அபராதம், ஒரு வாரக் கடுங்காவல் என்று குறைந்த தண்டனை விதிக்கப்படுவதால், குற்றம் செய்பவர்களுக்குப் பயம் குறைந்துபோய், திருட்டுச் சாராயம் முதலியவைகளைக் காய்ச்சத் தலைப் படுகிறார்கள்.

“குற்றம் செய்பவர்களைக் கண்டுபிடித்துக்கொடுத்தாலும், டாக்டர்களுடைய ஒத்துழைப்பு சரிவரக் கிடைப்பதில்லை. திருட்டுச் சாராயம் காய்ச்சுபவர்களுடைய இடம் முதலியவைகளைத் தனியாகவும் ரகசியமாகவும் அதி காரிகளிடத்தில் சொல்பவர்களுக்குத் தகுந்த பாதுகாப்பு கொடுக்கப்படுவ தில்லை. அவர்களுடைய பெயர் வெளியே வந்துவிடுமோ என்ற பயம் ஏற்படுகிறது. திருட்டுச் சாராயம் காய்ச்சுபவர்களைக் காட்டிக்கொடுப்பவர்களுடைய பெயர் ரகசியமாக வைக்கப்படாமலிருந்தால் கிராமங்களில் அதிக தகராறுகள் ஏற்படுவதற்கு ஆஸ்பதமாக இருக்கிறது. அம்மாதிரி ஏற்படாமல் சர்க்கார் பார்த்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். குற்றங்களைக் கண்டு பிடித்தக் தகவல் கொடுப்பவர்களுக்குத் தகுந்த பாதுகாப்பு கொடுக் கப்படவேண்டும்.

“மதுவிலக்கு சரியாக நடைபெறவேண்டுமானால் போதை தரும் வஸ்துக்கள் கலந்த டானிக்குகள் விற்பனை ஆவதைக் கட்டுப்படுத்தவேண்டும். குற்றம் செய்பவர்களைத் சரியாக விசாரித்து, குறைந்தது ஒரு வருஷ கடுங் காவல் தண்டனையாவது கொடுக்கவேண்டும். அவர்களுக்கு அபராதம் மட்டும் போடுவது கூடாதென்பது என்னுடைய அபிப்பிராயம். முன்போலவே மதுவிலக்கு போலீஸ் ஏற்படுத்தப்படவேண்டும். அப்படி முடியாமற் போனால், ஒவ்வொரு போலீஸ் ஸ்டேஷனிலும் மதுவிலக்குக்கென்று சில போலீஸ் கான்ஸ்டேபிள்கள் நிறுத்தப்படவேண்டும். ஒவ்வொரு போலீஸ் ஸ்டேஷனில் மதுவிலக்குக்கு என்று ஒரு ஜீப் கார் கொடுத்துவிடவேண்டும். அப்படி யில்லையானால், தேவை இல்லாதபோதும், இரவு நேரங்களிலு மாவது, ரெவின்யூ அதிகாரிகளிடமுள்ள ஜீப் கார்களை அவர்களுக்குக் கிடைக்கும்படி ஏற்பாடு செய்தால் நல்லது.

“குடிக்கப் பெர்மிட் பெற்றுள்ள அதிகாரிகளிடத்திலேயே, இந்த மது விலக்கு சட்டத்தை அமல் நடத்தும் வேலையை ஒப்படைப்பது தவறு. பிரசாரத்தின் மூலம் கவர்ன்மென்டார் மக்களிடத்தில் நல்ல உணர்ச்சியை ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டும்.

“எதிர்க்கட்சித் தலைவர் அவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள், ஒரு கமிட்டியை ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டுமென்று. ஒரு இடத்தில் கொலை நடக்கிறது, திருட்டு நடக்கிறது, என்று சொன்னால் அதற்காக அந்தச் சட்டத்தையே எடுத்து விட்டமுடியுமா? அதற்காகக் கமிட்டிகள் ஏற்படுத்தமுடியுமா என்று கேட் கின்றேன். முடியாது. அதைப்போலவே, ஏதோ ஒரு சில இடத்தில் கள்ளச் சாராயம் காய்ச்சப்பட்டு, குடிக்கின்றார்கள் என்றால், அதற்காக சட்டத்தை எடுத்துவிடமுடியாது. மதுவாணு மக்களுக்குக் கெடுதி செய் கின்றது. என்பதில் இங்கு இருக்கின்ற யாருக்கும் சந்தேகமே இல்லை. மதுவிலக்குத் திட்டமானது மக்களுக்கு நன்மை செய்யக்கூடியதென்பதை யாரும் மறுக்கவில்லை. அப்படியிருக்கும் போது, அந்த நல்ல காரியத்தை அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவர எல்லோரும் முழுமனதோடு முயற்சி செய் வேண்டும் தவிர, கமிட்டி ஒன்று போட்டு, விசாரணை செய்யவேண்டு மென்ற முறையில் பேசுவது சரியல்ல என்று நான் தெரிவித்துக்கொள் கின்றேன். ஆகவே, எதிர்க்கட்சித் தலைவர்களும், அங்கத்தினர்களும் இந்த மான்யத்தை முழுமனதோடு ஆதரிக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.

“தற்சமயம் நமது முதல் மந்திரி கனம் ஸ்ரீ ராஜாஜி அவர்களும் மதுவிலக்கு மந்திரி கனம் ஸ்ரீ வி. ஸி. பழனிசாமி கவுண்டர் அவர்களும் இந்த மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை இன்னும் தீவிரமாக அமல் நடத்துவராக ள் என்பதில் சந்தேகமில்லை. ஆகையால், அவர்கள் மந்திரிகளாக

[Sri P. S. Nalla Gounder] [16th July 1952]

இருக்கும்போது மக்களுக்கு இந்தத் திட்டத்தினால் நன்மை ஏற்படும்படி செய்யாமற்போனால், பிறகு யாராலும் செய்யமுடியாது. இந்த மாதிரி சந்தர்ப்பம் கிடைப்பது அரிது. ஆகையால் மதுவிலக்கு மான்யத்தை எல்லோரும் முழுமனதோடு ஆதரிக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு என்னுடைய பேச்சை முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.”

* SRI P. V. R. GAJAPATHI RAJU:—“ Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support my hon. Friend the Leader of the Opposition because to-day prohibition is tending to be a failure. Personally I would like abstinence to be the watchword of our people. But unfortunately it is not possible. I will quote the figures from Government reports which are made available for the public. I have before me the Police Administration Report for 1950. I am sure most of the Members will be amazed to know that crime has been gradually on the increase since the introduction of prohibition in this State. In a graph provided by the Police Department, we notice that the total number of cognizable offences in the State was the lowest in 1945, the number being 55,136. Since 1945 it has been gradually rising and in 1950, the last year for which a report has been made available to the public, it rose to 82,348. I would like the Government to give some thought to the point whether there is not some correlation between prohibition and the increasing crime. The number 82,348 is exclusive of the prohibition cases which have been listed separately. The total number of prohibition cases for 1950 is 84,597. So, we notice that the number of prohibition offences is more than the number of cognizable offences under the Indian Penal Code by about 200. For a total population of 55 millions, the percentage of confirmed drunkards as given by the various previous speakers is between 8 to 10. Therefore the ratio of prohibition offences to the population of confirmed drunkards is ten times greater than the ratio of general crime to the total population. These are two very striking phenomena which, I hope, the Hon. Minister will explain. The Hon. Chief Minister said with reference to my colleague Mr. Anthony Pillai that the statistics he quoted were all wrong. I would like him or the Hon. Minister in charge of Prohibition to tell me whether the statistics I have given are wrong. But I have taken them from Government reports.

“ The question which I would like to ask the Members of this House is whether prohibition has been a success or not. A list of various types of spirits, varnishes, beers, etc., has been given in the Prohibition Report for 1950-51. From the report, we see that under the head of denatured spirits, in 1937-38 Madras State consumed 115,402 gallons, and in 1949 under the same head the total consumption was 320,176 gallons. From 1949-50 to 1950-51, the increase has been three times. In 1950-51 the total quantity of spirit consumed in the State of Madras was 959,812 gallons. This is an amazing figure. Though liquor is issued for medicinal purposes, preparations like Tata's Eau-de-cologne which contain alcohol are now consumed by the people.

“ I do not think that the consumption of spirit for medical purposes would have gone up by three times in one year, because

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I know that the death rate is not so startling irrespective of the fact that famines are facing us.

“ Another aspect of the question is that when the Government introduced Prohibition in 1946, the excise revenue was somewhere in the region of Rs. 16·8 crores. The total tax on drink that the Government levied was roughly 12½ per cent of its value. So, if we make a calculation on the basis of a taxation of Rs. 16·8 crores, we will find that the total value of the output of alcoholic drinks in the State of Madras, when Prohibition was introduced, was in the region of Rs. 130 crores. If we consider that this is an industry with an output worth Rs. 130 crores, we must grant that this is bigger than any other industry in the State. Sir, if I should get up to-day and make a suggestion to the Members of this House to close down our textile mills or some other industry of this magnitude, I am sure there will be a hue and cry. In the same way, if we close down an industry with an output worth Rs. 130 crores overnight, without understanding the implications of the economic upheaval that it would cause but solely with a view to put an end positively to the evil of drink you will agree with me when I say, that it will not work. Suppose I say that all the workers of the Coimbatore mills and the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills may be turned into the streets, you will call me a mad man. But the Government do not think in the same way when an industry with an output worth Rs. 130 crores is closed down overnight.

“ Of course, Sir, there must be some machinery at the disposal of the Government to attack the evils of drink. Merely because I am saying that an industry with an output worth Rs. 130 crores has been closed down it should not be understood that I am supporting drink. I say that a modern State must have all the machinery for controlling the output and consumption of alcoholic drinks. We are not in an antiquated State. The State can utilize modern machinery for controlling the output of alcoholic drinks. In other countries, this has been done. The evil of drink is considered from two points of view. Is it drinking that the Government are opposed to? Or are they opposed to drunkenness? I think that our Penal Code has a section on drunkenness. I do not know whether there is any law anywhere in the world against drink. If the Government want to control drinking by saying that drinking is harmful, they can control the output of drink. As a Socialist I would suggest to Government to nationalize the drink industry. Let them not shirk it. Let them produce the type of drink which will not be deleterious or harmful to the health of the people. Let them control the content of alcohol in the drink. In the United States of America, beer is controlled so as not to exceed 7 per cent of alcoholic content. (Interruption.) I am corrected by my friend who says that it is 4 per cent. The alcoholic content of even spirits like whisky or brandy are controlled so as not to exceed 45 per cent. The Government can do the same thing here. They can keep the taxation at such a level that it will be impossible for the average man to resort to illicit distillation.”

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DEPUTY SPEAKER :—“ The hon. Member has only one minute more.”

* SRI P. V. R. GAJAPATHI RAJU :—“ The problem of contravening the law will be far greater than the desire for consumption of alcohol. I am sure that anybody can tell Government that at a particular level, the tax can be applied quite successfully. This level can be gradually increased. These are the methods that the Government should employ. In the meantime, I support my friend Mr. Viswanatham in his demand that a committee should be constituted to go into this question. I hope that the Leader of the House would allow this House to constitute a committee to go into the Prohibition question from all standpoints—impartial standpoints—whether the people are able to abstain from drink or otherwise.”

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—“ Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Demand that has been moved by the Hon. Minister and to support the cut motion moved by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition. If I support the cut motion it is because of my personal experience and firm conviction that the prohibition policy inaugurated by the present Government has miserably failed as far as Malabar district is concerned. I believed that no moral reforms can be enforced by bayonets and by penalization. It is only by persuasion and by educating the masses that the morality of the people can be raised. The more miserably the Government fail in the policy of Prohibition, the more they are resorting to terrorism, weapons, and intimidation of people and also penalisation. The very fact that so many Hon. Ministers of the Congress Ministry miserably failed in the last election is ample proof that the majority of the people are against Prohibition. Not only Prohibition has failed, but the Prohibition policy, has affected so many things. The present Government do not give any medical facilities to the villages. They do not pay any attention to the poor peasantry, and the working classes. As far as Malabar is concerned, the people there are getting treatment from Ayurvedic physicians. The Prohibition law implemented by the Government is hitting them too much. Physicians of the Ayurvedic system of medicine are suffering very much from the Prohibition laws. I have to invite the attention of the Government to the G.O. No. 3567, dated 29th December 1951. Up to this time the Ayurvedic physicians were instructed to keep accounts of only *asavas*. According to the Government Order, they are to keep an account of *asavas* and *arishtams*. These people have not only to maintain registers but they have to meet heavy expenditure. Another Government Order, namely, G.O. Ms. No. 151, dated 17th October 1951, says that these Ayurvedic physicians should send to Madras the *asavam* and *arishtam* that they make for inspection, and a fee of Rs. 35 per gallon they are asked to remit. This is a nuisance, Sir. The poor physicians and institutions are not in a position to do this. As a result of this Government Order, the poor physicians are suffering. In this connexion I have to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to one important fact. Even to-day, if I go

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to any chemist's shop in Madras, I am at liberty to purchase some sort of poison. There are no permits or regulations about the purchase of poison. Sir, are these asavas and arishtams more dangerous than these poisons which are sold? If this is to be referred to some medical man, the Government will be fully convinced that this is not at all dangerous. These asavas and arishtams are fermenting of their own accord. No alcohol is added to them. This is a fact which can be elicited from any physician. I invite the attention of the Hon. Minister as well as the Government to the judgment passed by the Supreme Court. The judgment is dated 25th May 1951. It is in the F. L. Belcher case. The judgment stated that the restrictions in regard to preparing and selling medicines containing alcohol are null and void.

" One more point, Sir. The Hon. Minister was saying that anyhow the Government were going to adhere to the election pledges that were given. As far as I am able to recollect, it was on 13th July 1951 that the All-India Congress Committee met at Bangalore under the presidency of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. There some Congressmen wanted to move an amendment regarding Prohibition. That is, they wanted to include Prohibition in the election manifesto. Then Pandit Nehru and other Members opposed it on the plea that our country could not afford to do so and that the economy of our country would be destroyed. I want to know how the Hon. Minister said that this Prohibition was in the election manifesto. I want to impress on hon. Members that it was not in the manifesto of the All-India Congress Committee. Ministers and so many other members of the Congress party would have spoken during election time that they would do this and that. May I most humbly ask the Government, when the poor people are thrown into the streets, when they are suffering for want of clothing, housing, food, etc., whether they (the Government) should throw away crores of rupees only to implement the pledges of the Congress? Actually no such pledges were given at all. This is a bogus pledge which I want to expose, Sir. Tapping of coconut palms in Andur (and Morara) was refused to the people there on the ground that it would infringe the Prohibition laws. Sir, I ask, how can the horoscope of a child be written before it is born? In spite of the fact that the tappers requested the Ministry several times to permit them to take out a licence and tap coconut palms, for jaggery manufacture, they were refused licences. When they were not given any licence, how can they infringe Prohibition laws, I do not know.

" Sir, I invite the attention of the Hon. Minister and the House to a resolution passed by the Cuddapah District Congress Committee on the 21st March this year. What made that committee pass such a resolution? Is it because they wanted to spread drinking? Not at all. The U.D.F. has made it clear that the evil of drink must be eradicated as soon as possible. But this is not the method of eradicating the evil. We say that this policy should be revised, because it has completely failed. Why did the Cuddapah Congress Committee pass such a resolution? It is

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because they have learnt lessons from the people. The resolution of the committee was that Prohibition should be completely scraped, and the money saved therefrom should be utilized for the development of the country. My humble submission is that we are for Prohibition, but a committee should be appointed to go into the details. This policy should be revised. Sir, I support the cut motion."

4 p.m. SRI A. SAMBASIVAM :—"கனம் மதிப்பிற்குரிய தலைவர் அவர்களே, முதலாவதாக எண்ணப்போன்றவர்களுக்கு இங்கு இதுவரைக்கும் பேசுவதற்கு வாய்ப்பு அளிக்காமல், இப்பொழுதாவது எனக்கு பேசுவதற்கு வாய்ப்பு அளித்ததற்காக கனம் தலைவருக்கு என்னுடைய நன்றியை தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இந்தச் சபையின் நிகழ்ச்சிகளை இங்கிருந்தும், வெளியிலிருந்தும், நேராகவும், செய்தித்தாள்கள் மூலமாகவும், பார்த்தும், கேட்கும், இருக்கும் வகையில் ஒரு சிலரே திரும்பத் திரும்ப பேசி வருகின்றபோது மற்றவர்களை புறக்கணிக்கப்பட்ட மனப்பான்மை இருப்பதாக தெரியவருகிறது. அவ்விதம் இருந்தால் அவரவர்களுடைய மதிப்பு அவரவர்களுடைய தொகுதியில் குறைந்து விடும். குறைவதற்கும் வாய்ப்பு ஏற்படும். ஆதலால் எல்லோருக்கும் பேசுவதற்கு வாய்ப்பு அளிக்கும்படி செய்வது அவைத்தலைவரின் கடமை. அதவே இந்த அவைத்தலைவருக்கு என்னுடைய விண்ணப்பமுமாகும். தமிழில் பேசலாம், பேச முடியாதவர்கள் எழுதிப்படிக்கலாம் என்று வந்த பிறகு இப்பொழுது எழுதியும் படிப்பதற்கு இருப்பர் என்று என்னுவதற்கு இடமில்லை. ஆகவே இந்த அவையிலுள்ள எல்லோருக்கும் ஒரே விதமான உரிமையளித்து எல்லோருக்கும் மதிப்புக்கொடுத்து எல்லோருடைய மதிப்பையும் காக்கவேண்டியது இந்த அவைத்தலைவரின் கடமை, என்பதை நான் அறிவுறுத்த விரும்புகிறேன்."

"அடுத்தபடியாக நேற்று இங்கு பேசிய நண்பர் ஒருவர் ஆத்தூர் தொகுதியிலுள்ள ஹரிஜனங்கள் மிகவும் இழிவாக நடத்தப்படுகிறார்கள் என்று சொன்னது மிகவும் தவறானது. அதை நான் என் முழுத்திறமையுடன் எதிர்க்கிறேன். அவ்விதம் ஏதாவதிருந்தால் அந்த ஜில்லா தண்டல் தலைவருக்கு, அதாவது கலெக்டருக்கு, எழுதி உண்மையான நிகழ்ச்சிகளை வருவித்து இந்த அவைக்கு எடுத்துக் காட்டுவேண்டும் என்பது என்னுடைய அவா, என்பதை என் சார்பாகவும் என்னுடைய தொகுதி மக்களின் சார்பாகவும் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். இந்தமாதிரி மக்கள்மீது வேண்டுமென்றே குற்றங்களைச் சாட்டுதல் வருந்தத்தக்க செய்கை என்பதை இந்த அவைக்குக் கூறிக்கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன்."

"தலைவர் அவர்களே, அடுத்தபடியாக இந்த மதுவிலக்கு திட்டத்தை நான் முழு மனதுடன் வரவேற்கிறேன். அதற்காக கொடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ள செலவு தொகையை ஒப்புக்கொள்ள வேண்டியதுதான். அதைப்பற்றி சில விஷயங்களை எடுத்துப் பேச விரும்புகிறேன். இந்த திட்டம் சரியான முறையில் நடத்தப்படவில்லை என்பது ஓரளவு உண்மைதான். ஆனாலும் ஒரு சிலர் கருதுகிற அளவில் அது முற்றிலும் தோல்வி அடைந்துவிட்டது என்று சொல்வது அவ்வளவு பொறுத்தமானது அல்ல. தோல்வி அடைந்துவிட்டது என்று சொல்லுகிறவர்களில் பெரும்பாலோர் ஏழைகளோடு நெருங்கிப்பழகியவர்கள் அல்ல. சாதாரணமாக காதல் கேட்டுச் சொல்லுகிறவர்கள்தான். உண்மையில் அவர்கள் சேரிக்குச் சென்று ஏழை ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய குடிசைகளுக்குச் சென்று, நேரில் பார்க்கவில்லை என்று தான் சொல்ல வேண்டுமென்று நான் நினைக்கிறேன். நான் அவ்விதம் நினைப்பதும் தவறுதலாக இருக்கலாம். தேர்தல் காலங்களிலும் மற்றும் பல முறைகளிலும் கிராமங்களுக்குச் செல்லும்போது இந்த நிகழ்ச்சியைப்பற்றி தெரிந்து கொள்ளலாம் என்பதற்காக வண்டிகளில் ஏறிச் சென்று மிகவும் வறுமை வாழ்ந்த பெண் மக்களையும் மற்றவர்களையும் நான் காட்டு பேசி யிருக்கிறேன். அவர்களுடைய

16th July 1952]

[Sri A. Sambasivam]

கிராமங்களில் எத்தனை பேர் திருட்டுத்தனமாக சாராயம் காய்ச்சுகிறார்கள் என்றும் எவ்வளவு பேர்கள் குடிக்கிறார்கள் என்றும் தெரிந்து கொள்வதற்காகத்தான் கேட்டிருக்கிறேன். 'போலீசாருக்கு தகவல் கொடுக்க கேட்கவில்லை; பயமில்லாமல் சொல்லுங்கள், ஏற்கனவே அனுபவம் அடைந்ததையுமாரக் தான் பூரா அனுபவத்தையும் சொல்ல முடியும் என்பதற்காக கேட்கிறேன்' என்றும் அவர்களை நெருங்கிக் கேட்டால்தான் உண்மையை தெரிந்துகொள்ள முடியும் என்ற ஆசை இருக்கிறது என்று கேட்டு வந்தேன். நான் கேட்டு இடங்களிலெல்லாம் இந்த குடி ஒழிப்புக்கு பெண்கள் எதிர்ப்பாகவோ வெறுப்பாகவோ இருந்ததாக தெரியவில்லை. இந்த குடி ஒழிப்பு வேண்டும் என்று தான் எல்லோரும் பேசிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். என்னுடைய தொகுதியைப் பொறுத்த வரைக்கும் நான் நிச்சயமாக சொல்ல முடியும், இந்த குடி ஒழிப்பு வேண்டுமா வேண்டாமா என்று இந்த தாய்மார்கள் சொல்ல வருவது என்னுடைய தொகுதியில் சுமார் 70 சிறுநூர்கள் இருக்கின்றன. இந்த 70 ஊர்களில் 20 ஊர்களில் ஒருவர் கூட குடிப்பதில்லை என்றும், திருட்டுத்தனமாக காய்ச்சுவது இல்லை என்றும், ஒரு வீட்டில் கூட காய்ச்சுவதில்லை என்றும் நான் சொல்லிக்கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன். அவ்விதம் யாராவது ஒரு வீட்டிலாவது குடிக்கின்றார்கள் என்று நினைத்தால் அவர் என்னுடைய தொகுதிக்கு வரலாம். இந்த ஒரே திட்டத்தை வைத்துக்கொண்டு மீண்டும் தேர்தலுக்கு நிற்க நான் தயாராக இருக்கிறேன் என்பதை இந்த அவைக்குச் சொல்லிக்கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன். ஆகவே ஏதோ ஒரு ஊரில் காய்ச்சப்படுகிறது என்றும் ஒரு ஊரில் ஒரு சிலர் காய்ச்சுகிறார்கள் என்பதற்காகவும், பொதுவாகவும், மொத்தமாகவும் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு பேசுவது அழகல்ல. மொத்தமாக எடுத்துக்கொண்டு பார்க்கிறபோது குடிக்கின்றவர்களுடைய தொகை மிகவும் குறைவானது. குடி இருந்த காலத்தில் எத்தனை பேர்கள் காய்ச்சினார்களோ அதைவிட இப்பொழுது எவ்வளவோ குறைவாகத்தான் காய்ச்சுகிறார்கள். உண்மையை உணர்ந்து தான் நான் சொல்லுகிறேன். என்னுடைய தொகுதியில் நான் சுற்றுப் பிரயாணம் செய்து பார்த்து, நான் தெரிந்த இடங்களிலெல்லாம் ஆராய வேண்டும் என்ற உண்மை நோக்கத்தான் சென்று ஆராய்ந்து அறிந்து கொண்டுதான் இங்கு இப்பொழுது பேசுகிறேன். காங்கிரஸ் திட்டம் என்பதற்காகவும் கனம் முதல் மந்திரி அவர்களுக்காகவும் பேசவில்லை என்பதை இந்த அவைக்குத் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஆகவே, இரண்டு நாட்களுக்கு முன்பு பேசிய ஸ்ரீமதி சௌந்தரம் ராமச்சந்திரன் அவர்கள் பெண்களுடைய சார்பாக எடுத்துப் பேசியபோது என்ன தெரிந்த தென்றால், இந்த அவை பொறுத்த வரைக்கும் சிறுபான்மையினரான அவர்களுக்கு நன்மையைச் செய்யவேண்டும் என்பதற்காக இதை எல்லோரும் நிறைவேற்றி வைக்கவேண்டும் என்பது ஒன்றுதான். பொதுவாக பெரும்பாலான மக்களை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் பெண் மக்கள் இதை அதிகமாக வரவேற்கத்தான் செய்கிறார்கள். இந்தத் திட்டத்தின் பேரில்தான் நாம் வோட்டுக் கேட்டு வந்தோம். பெண்கள் நமக்கு இந்தத் திட்டத்தின் பேரில்தான் வோட்டுக் கொடுத்ததைப் பார்த்தோம். ஆகவே, எப்படிப்பார்த்தாலும் இந்த குடி ஒழிப்பு திட்டத்தை ஒழித்து விட வேண்டுமென்று முடிவு செய்யவேண்டாம் என்று இந்த அவை அங்கத்தினர்களை மன்றாடிக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். இந்த நாட்டின் நாகரீகத்தின் பெயரால், இந்த ஏழை தாய்மார்களின் பெயரால் ஏழை தொழிலாளர்களின் பெயரால் இதை எடுக்க வேண்டாம். இன்னும் சிறிது காலத்திற்கு இதை அமுல் செய்து பார்க்கலாம். நாம் எல்லோரும் ஒன்று சேர்ந்து இது நம்முடைய முக்கியமான கடமையாக நடத்திப்பார்க்கலாம். முடியவில்லை என்று பார்க்கப்பட்டால் அடுத்த வரவு செலவு திட்டத்தின் பேரில் விவாதம் நடக்கும்போது இதை ஆராய்ந்து அறிந்து இதைப்பற்றி எவ்விதம் செய்யவேண்டுமென்பதை எடுத்துக் கொள்ளலாம் என்று எல்லோரையும் கேட்டுக்கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன். ஆகவே இப்பொழுது இருக்கக்கூடிய திறமை வாய்ந்த, தகுதி வாய்ந்த, முதல் மந்திரி அவர்களுடைய திட்டத்தை ஒழுங்காக அமுல் செய்ய நாம் முயற்சிக்க வேண்டும். அவ்விதம் செய்யும்போது நம்முடைய காவற்தலைவர்களும், காவற்துறை குழாங்களும், அதாவது போலீஸ் நிர்வாகமும்,

[Sri K. Appala Naidu]

“ மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை மீறி கள்ளச் சாராயம் காய்ச்சுபவர்களுக்கு கிராமங்களில் ஆங்காங்குள்ள ஆபீசர்களும் கூட உடந்தையாக இருக்கிறார்கள். காரணம் என்னவென்றால் கிராம அதிகாரிகளாகிய பட்டாமணியம், கர்ணம், கிராமத் தலையாரி இவர்களுடைய சம்பளம் எல்லாம் மிகவும் குறைவாக இருக்கிறது. அவர்கள் அதனால் பொறுப்பாக கேஸை எடுத்து நடத்தமாட்டேன் என்கிறார்கள். ஸப்-இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்களும், போலீஸ்காரர்களும் கூட சரியாக உளவு விசாரிக்கமாட்டேன் என்கிறார்கள். இந்த இடத்திலே கள்ளச் சாராயம் காய்ச்சுகிறார்கள் என்றால் உடனே அந்த இடத்திற்குச் சென்று விசாரிக்கமாட்டேன் என்கிறார்கள். மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டம் சரியாக நடைபெறவில்லையென்றால் இந்த ஆபீசர்கள் எல்லாம் தங்கள் வேலையை சரியாக நடத்தும்படி கண்காணித்துக் கொண்டால் தான் இது நன்றாக நடைபெறும். அதை விட்டு, இதை மீண்டும் கமிட்டியின் பரிசீலனைக்கு விடுவது என்பது கூடாது என்று நான் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். உண்மையாகவே மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டம் நன்றாக அமுல் நடத்தப்படவேண்டுமென்றால் அதற்குத் தகுந்த பிரசாரமும் இருக்கவேண்டும். குறிப்பாக எங்கள் தாலுக்காவிலே, மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்திற்கு எதிராகப் பிரசாரம் இன்று நடைபெற்று வருகிறது. எனக்குத்

[Sri N. C. Ramasamy Kander]

[16th July 1952]

தெரியும். அனேகம் பேர்கள், 'கள்ளுக்கடை இல்லாததால் மழையிலலை. கள்ளுக்கடையைக் கொண்டு வந்தால் மழை உடனே கொட்டும்', என்பதாகப் பிரசாரம் செய்கிறார்கள். முன்பு கள்ளுக்கடையை வைத்து நடத்தியவர்களும், இனிமேல் கள்ளுக்கடை வந்தால் அதை நடத்தி ஆயிரக்கணக்காக சம்பாதிக்கலாமே என்பதற்காகவும்தான் இன்று கள்ளுக்கடையை மீண்டும் கொண்டு வரவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள் தவிர, உண்மையாக எழைகளின் நிலையை உயர்த்துவதற்காக இவர்கள் இப்படிச் சொல்லவேயில்லை. தப்பாக மக்களிடம் பிரசாரம் செய்து அவர்களை இவர்கள் ஏமாற்றியிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகவே எங்கள் தாலுக்காவின் சார்பாக, எங்கள் தொகுதி வாக்காளர்களின் சார்பாக நான் இந்த மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை ரத்து செய்யக் கூடாது என்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

4.15
p.m.

“மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டம் வெற்றிகரமாக நடக்கவில்லையென்றால் அதற்கான காரணத்தை ஆராயவேண்டும். இன்று கிராமத்திலிருக்கிற கிராம உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களுக்கு மிகவும் குறைவான சம்பளத்தைக் கொடுக்கிறோம். உதாரணமாக 24 மணி நேரமும் ஒரு நாளில் இந்த சர்க்காருக்காக வேலை செய்யக் கூடியவர்களுக்கு சம்பளம் ரூ. 60, ரூ. 70. அவர்கள் எப்படி வேலை செய்ய முடியும்? அதோடு கிராமங்களில் சர்க்கார் காரியங்களையெல்லாம் நிர்வகித்து வருகிற மணியக்காரர்களுக்கு என்ன சம்பளம்? அவர்களுக்கு 18 ரூபாய், 20 ரூபாய்கள் தான் சம்பளம். அவர்கள் கிராமத்திலே 24 மணியும் இருக்கவேண்டும். வேறு எந்த ஊருக்கும் போகக்கூடாது. மற்றும் கிஸ்தி வசூலிப்பது அவர்கள் தான். இதை கட்டப் போகும்போது இவர்கள் அங்கே வரக்கூடிய அதிகாரிகளுக்கு செலவு செய்யவேண்டுமே தவிர இவர்களுக்கு போக்குவரத்து செலவுக்குப் பணம் கொடுப்பது கிடையாது. அதனால்தான் இப்பொழுது கிராம அதிகாரிகள் இதில் ஊக்கம் காட்டுவதில்லை. கிராம அதிகாரிகளின் உதவியின்றி மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை வெற்றிகரமாக கிராமத்தில் நடத்தி வைப்பதும் ரொம்பவும் கஷ்டம். ஆகையால் சர்க்கார் கிராம அதிகாரிகளின் நிலைமையை உயர்த்தப் பாடுபடவேண்டும்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக, இப்பொழுது கொண்டுவரப்பட்டிருக்கும் நிலவரி சர்சார்ஜைப் பற்றி நான் இரண்பொரு வார்த்தைகள் சொல்ல ஆசைப்படுகிறேன். கடந்த 5, 6 ஆண்டுகளாக பருவ மழையில்லாததால் நாட்டில் சரியான வெள்ளாமை கிடையாது. ஆற்று ஜலப்பாசனம் இல்லாத இடங்களில் மாடுகளைக் கொண்டுதான் தண்ணீரைக் கிணறுகளிலிருந்து இறைத்து பயிர்ச்செலவு செய்யவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. செலவிறுத்த தகுந்தபடி வெள்ளாமை இல்லாததால் இப்பொழுது கிஸ்தி கட்டுவதற்குக் கூட கையிருப்பிலுள்ள கொஞ்ச தானியத்தையும் விற்புத்தான் வரி கட்டுகிறார்கள். இந்த நிலையில் மேலும் சர்சார்ஜ் கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்றால் அவர்களுக்கு ரொம்பவும் கஷ்டமாக இருக்கும். ஆகையால் இமாமதூரியாக பஞ்சத்திலை அடிப்பட்ட இடங்களிலுள்ள நிலங்களுக்கு சர்சார்ஜ் இல்லாமல் நீக்கவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு என் பேச்சை முடித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

SRI P. JEEVANANDAM:—“கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, சர்க்கார் தரப்பில் கொண்டுவந்துள்ள மான்யத்தை எதிர்ப்பதற்காகவும், எதிர்த்தரப்புத் தலைவர் கொண்டுவந்துள்ள வெட்டுப் பிரேரணையை ஆதரிப்பதற்காகவும் நான் நிற்கின்றேன்.

“இந்தப் பிரச்சினை, இந்தச் சபைக்கு மட்டுமல்ல, நாடு முழுவதிலும் அடிபட்டுக் கொண்டிருக்கின்ற ஒரு பிரச்சினையாகும். ஐந்து வருஷ அனுபவத்தை நம் முன்னால் வைத்துக்கொண்டு, இந்தப் பிரச்சினையைப் பார்த்தால், நான் இப்பொழுது சொல்லப்போகிற வார்த்தைகளைக் கொஞ்சம் ஆழமாக எடுத்துக் கொள்வதற்கும் சந்தர்ப்பம் கிடைக்குமென்று நினைக்கின்றேன். அதை விட்டுவிட்டு, ஏற்கனவே பதிந்திருக்கின்ற அபிப்பிராயம்

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யத்தை மட்டும் வைத்துக்கொண்டு, தாம் நிற்கிற போக்கை மட்டும் வைத்துக் கொண்டு, பார்த்தால், அதில் பயனில்லை என்பது என்னுடைய அபிப்பிராயம்.

“ ‘இந்து’ பத்திரிகை நம்முடைய நாட்டிலே மிக நிதானமாக எழுதுகிற பத்திரிகை என்று எல்லோராலும் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ‘இந்து’ பத்திரிகைக் காரர்களுக்கு காங்கிரஸ் கொள்கைக்கு விரோதமாகப் போக என்னைக் குமே எண்ணம் வராது. அப்படிப்பட்ட அந்த ‘இந்து’ பத்திரிகை Prohibition திட்டத்தைப்பற்றி குறிப்பிடுகிறபோது, மத்தியப் பிரதேசத்தில் மதுவிலக்கு விசாரணைக் கமிட்டி நியமிக்கப்பட்டதையும், அது அறிவித்த முடிவுகளையும் எடுத்துக்காட்டியிருக்கிறது. அந்த முடிவுகளிலிருந்து சில உண்மைகள் வருகின்றன. மதுவிலக்கு தோற்றுவிட்டது என்பது ஒன்று. கள்ளச் சாராயம் காய்ச்சுவது அதிகரித்திருக்கிறது; கள்ளச் சாராயம் கடத்தப்படும் கேஸ்கள் அதிகப்பட்டிருக்கிறது, என்பது இரண்டு.

“ மதுவிலக்கின் லட்சியம் என்ன? பொதுமக்கள், சாதாரண மக்கள், கோடிக்கணக்கான மக்கள், சமுதாய ரீதியாகவும், பொருளாதார ரீதியாகவும், சபீட்சமடையவேண்டுமென்பதுதான் அதன் லட்சியம். ‘அதுவும் தோற்றுவிட்டது; அதில் கொஞ்சுங்கூட அபிவிருத்தியடையவில்லை’ என்று எடுத்துக்காட்டுவதோடு மட்டும் நின்றுவிடவில்லை. ‘1948-ம் வருஷத்திலே மதுவிலக்கு சம்பந்தமாக விசாரணை செய்ய ஒரு கமிட்டி நம்முடைய ராஜ்யத்திலே நியமிக்கப்பட்டபோதிலும், அது காங்கிரஸ்காரர்களையே கொண்ட ஒரு கமிட்டியாகவிட்டதால் அவர்கள் மதுவிலக்குக்குச் சாதகமாகத்தான் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்கள்; அப்படித்தான் சொல்லுவார்கள். அதன் முடிவே சரியென்று நாம் எடுத்துக் கொண்டுவிட முடியாது’ என்று ‘இந்து’ பத்திரிகை கூறியிருக்கிறது. ‘ஆகவே இந்தச் சட்டம் எப்படி அமுலில் இருக்கிறதென்பதை, dispassionate ஆக, விருப்பு வெறுப்பில்லாமல், ஆராயத்தகுந்த ஒரு கமிட்டியை நியமிக்கவேண்டுமென்று ‘இந்து’ பத்திரிகை எடுத்துக் காட்டியிருக்கிறது. ‘இந்து’ பத்திரிகை காங்கிரசுக்கு விரோதமாக எழுதவே எழுதாது. அதில் சந்தேகமில்லை. அப்படிப்பட்ட பத்திரிகை இப்பொழுது சந்தேகமற்ற ரீதியில் ஒரு உண்மையைச் சொல்லியிருக்கிறது.

“ எதிர்த்தரப்பாருக்கு பதில் சொல்லும்போது, கனம் ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் சொன்னார்: ‘மதுவிலக்கினால் வெற்றி தான். 1946-ம் வருஷத்திற்கு முன்னால், மதுவிலக்கு பரிபூரணமாக வருவதற்கு முன்னால், எவ்வளவு பேர் குடித்தார்களோ அதில் கணிசமான பங்கு இப்பொழுது குறைந்திருக்கிறது’ என்று. இது சர்க்கார்த் தரப்பு வாதம்.

“ ‘இந்து’ பத்திரிகை கேட்கிறது, ‘இதைப்பற்றி கட்டாயம் விருப்பு வெறுப்பில்லாமல் பரிசீலனை செய்தே தீரவேண்டும்; நீங்கள் சொல்வதில் நம்பிக்கை கொள்வதற்கில்லை’ என்று. நாடு முழுவதும் ‘இந்து’ பத்திரிகையின் கருத்தை எல்லோரும் ஒப்புக்கொள்ளுவார்கள். அது சொல்லுகிறது, ‘காங்கிரசைத் தவிர எல்லா கட்சிக்காரர்களும் இன்றைக்கிருக்கிற சர்க்காரின் மதுவிலக்கு policy-ஐ எதிர்க்கிறார்கள்’ என்று. காங்கிரஸ்தரப்பிலும் அதே கருத்தை இந்தச் சபையிலும் எடுத்துக்காட்டியிருக்கிறார்கள்.

“ கடப்பா காங்கிரஸ் கமிட்டி என்ன கூறிற்று? ‘சென்ற காலத்திலும் நிகழ் காலத்திலும் நடந்ததையும், நடப்பதையும் பார்க்கும்போது, காங்கிரஸ் கொண்டுவந்த மதுவிலக்குத் திட்டத்தின் போக்கு தப்பானது, இது வெற்றி பெறவில்லை, இதை ரத்து செய்துவிடவேண்டும்’ என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறது. இதே கருத்தைத்தான் அனேகம் பத்திரிகைகளும் வெளியிட்டுவருகின்றன. ஆகவே, ஒரு கமிட்டியை ஏற்படுத்தி, இது மெய்யா, இது பொய்யா என்பதை ஆராய்ந்து, இன்று குடி அதிகரித்திருக்கிறதா? குடி குறைந்திருக்கிறதா? என்பதைப் பார்க்க வேண்டும். அதோடு ஏற்கனவே சோஷலிஸ்டு நண்பர், விஜயநகரம் ராஜா அவர்கள் கூறியது மாதிரி, சர்க்கார் எடுத்துக்கொடுத்திருக்கும் கணக்கையே பார்க்கவேண்டும்.

[Sri P. Jeevanandam]

[16th July 1952]

1950-ம் வருஷத்திய கணக்கில் மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை மீறியவர்கள் 65 ஆயிரம் சொச்சம் பேர்கள். 1951-ம் வருஷக் கடைசி கணக்கைப் பார்த்தால், சட்டத்தை மீறியிருக்கிறவர்கள் 85 ஆயிரம் சொச்சம் பேர்கள். ஆகையால், மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை மீறியாவது வெளிப்படையாக குடிக்கத் துணிகிறார்கள்; வெளிப்படையாகக் காய்ச்சவும் துணிகிறார்கள். அதிக பேர்கள் குடித்துக்கொண்டேயும் இருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதையும் ‘இந்துப்’ பத்திரிகை எடுத்துக் காட்டியிருக்கிறதென்பதை உங்களுடைய கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவர விரும்புகின்றேன். இதை ஏன் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேனென்றால், என் அனுபவத்தை எடுத்துக் காட்டுவதற்காகத்தான். கடந்த ஐந்து வருஷத்திலே, எனக்கு ஒரு தொகுதியில் மட்டுமல்ல—அதாவது வண்ணாரப்பேட்டை தொகுதியில் மட்டுமல்ல, தமிழ்நாடு முழுவதும் அனுபவம் உண்டு என்பதை நான் இந்தச் சபையில் நிச்சயமாகச் சொல்ல முடியும். வேறு எந்த அங்கத்தினருக்கும் இருக்கும் அனுபவத்தைவிட, எனக்கு நல்ல அனுபவம் உண்டு, அந்த அனுபவத்தால் எதையும் நன்றாகச் சொல்லமுடியுமென்று நிச்சயமாகச் சொல்லுவேன், தமிழ்நாட்டைப் பற்றி.

“முதலில், எல்லா தரப்பாளர்களும் எப்படிச் சொல்லுகிறார்கள் என்பதைப் பார்க்கவேண்டும். என் இதைக் கூறுகிறேனென்றால், காங்கிரஸ் தரப்பில் இருக்கக்கூடிய நண்பர்கள் பேசும்போது, ‘எங்கள் ஊருக்கு வாருங்கள், எங்கள் தொகுதிக்கு வாருங்கள்; என் தொகுதியில் இருக்கக் கூடிய 20, 30 ஊர்களுக்கு அழைத்துச் செல்கின்றேன்; அங்கு யாருமே குடிப்பதில்லை; மதுவிலக்கு வெற்றிகரமாகத்தான் நடக்கிறது’ என்று குறிப்பிடுகிறார்கள். நான் சொல்லுகிறேன், ‘20, 30 ஊர்களிலுள்ள அனுபவம் மட்டும் போதாது. தமிழ்நாட்டிலுள்ள இரண்டாயிரக்கணக்கான கிராமங்களைப்பற்றி நல்ல அனுபவமுள்ள தமிழன் நான் என்ற முறையிலே மதுவிலக்கு வெற்றிகரமாக நடக்கவில்லை’ என்பதாக. இதற்காகத்தான் பாரபட்சமற்ற கமிட்டி வைத்து விசாரிக்கவேண்டுமென்று கோருகிறேன்.

“மதுவை நாட்டைவிட்டு ஒழிக்கவேண்டுமென்று மகாத்மா காந்தி சொன்னார்கள். அவரது நிர்மாணத் திட்டங்களிலே மதுவிலக்கு என்பதும் ஒன்று. அதைத்தான் இப்பொழுது செய்திருக்கிறோம்’ என்று காங்கிரஸ் தரப்பில் கூறப்படுகிறது. ஆனால், 2,000 வருஷங்களுக்கு முன்னமிருந்தே, நாகரீகத்தின் உச்சநிலையை எய்தியிருந்த தமிழர்கள் கள் குடிப்பதை மிகப் பாவமாகக் கருதியதோடு, தமிழ் நாகரீகத்திற்கே வரம்பு கட்டிய தமிழ்மறை

‘துஞ்சினார் செத்தாரின் வேறல்ல ரெஞ்ஞான்றும்
நஞ்சுஎன்பார் கள்ளுண் பவர்’

என்பதாக, ‘கள் சாப்பிடுகிறவர்கள் விஷத்தைச் சாப்பிடுபவர்கள் போல் ஆவார்கள். அதாவது, எப்படி விஷத்தைச் சாப்பிட்டால் இறந்துபோய் விடுவானோ, அதைப் போலவே, கள்ளைக்குடிப்பவர்கள் அழிந்தே போய் விடுவார்கள்,’ என்று உபதேசம் செய்துவந்திருக்கிறது.

“இன்றைக்கு, நேற்றைக்கல்ல, 2,000 ஆண்டுகளாகவே மதுவை ஒழிக்க வேண்டுமென பிரசாரம் இந்த நாட்டில் செய்யப்பட்டு வந்திருக்கிறது. இந்த நாட்டில் மட்டுமல்ல. நமக்குத் தெரிந்த எல்லா நாடுகளிலேயும் மதுவை ஒழிக்க வேண்டுமென்று பிரசாரம் செய்யப்பட்டு வந்திருக்கிறது. ஆனால், மற்ற எனைய உலக நாடுகளில் இன்று மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டம் கொண்டுவரப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா? இந்த நாட்டிலே அப்படிக் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறோம். கொண்டுவரக்கூடாதென்று நான் சொல்லவில்லை. லட்சிய ரீதியாகவும், சமுதாய ரீதியாகவும் மதுவை உட்கொள்வது விஷத்திற்கு சமானம், மது உட்கொள்வது பாபம் என்று கருதப்பட்டுவந்த, இந்த நாட்டு மக்களின் மனதை மாற்றி, அவர்களே குடிக்காமல் இருக்கும்படியாகச் செய்யவேண்டுமே யொழிய சட்டத்தைக் கொண்டுவருவது, அதை அமுல் நடத்துவது என்பது அனுபவத்தில் சாத்தியமா? குடியை நிறுத்தவேண்டும் என்று சொல்வது நல்லதா? ஆனால், குடிப்பவர்

16th July 1952]

[Sri P. Jeevanandam]

களைத் தடுப்பதற்காகக் கொண்டுவரப்பட்டிருக்கிற சட்டம் அமுலில் உண்மையாகவே அப்படி தடைசெய்கிறதா? அப்படி இல்லை என்பதுதான் எங்கள் வாதம். இதற்குக் காரணம் என்ன? சர்க்கார்த்தரப்பில் இருக்கிறவர்களுக்கு ஒரு விஷயத்தை ஞாபகத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவர விரும்புகிறேன். திருக்குறள் என்ற நூலைப்பற்றி கனம் ராஜாஜி அவர்களுக்கு நன்றாகத் தெரியும். மதுவிலக்கு மந்திரி கனம் ஸ்ரீ பழனிசாமிக் கவுண்டர் அவர்களுக்குத் தெரியும். காங்கிரஸ் சர்க்காரைக்கும்தெரிந்திருக்கும்

‘கனித்தானைக் காரணங் காட்டுதல் கீழ்நீர்க் குளித்தானைத் தீத்தூரீயுற்று’

என்று திருவள்ளுவர் கூறியிருக்கிறார். அதாவது, கள் குடிக்கிறவர்கள் இருக்கின்றார்களே, அவர்களைக் குறித்து நியாயம் பேசுவது, உபதேசம் செய்வது, கையில் தீப்பந்தத்தை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு, குளத்தில் உள்ளதைத் தேடுவது போலாகும். ஆகையால், மக்களைக் கள் குடிக்காது தடுக்கவேண்டுமென்றால், தடியடிப் பிரயோகம் செய்வதினால் அப்படிச் செய்யமுடியாது. தத்துவ ரீதியாக உபதேசம் செய்யத்தான் வேண்டும். மக்களைக் கள் குடிக்கக்கூடாதென்பதற்காக சட்டத்தைப் போட்டு பல வந்தமாக கொடுமைப்படுத்துவதனால் மாற்றிவிடமுடியாது. பொருளாதார ரீதியிலும், சமுதாய ரீதியிலும் அவர்கள் நிலைமை மேன்மையுறவேண்டுமென்றால், கள் குடிக்காமல் இருக்கவேண்டுமென்று பிரசாரம் செய்வதினால் மட்டுமே முடியும். சமுதாய ரீதியாக உருவாகி வந்திருக்கின்ற ஒரு கொடிய பழக்கம் இது; பரம்பரை பரம்பரையாக வழக்கத்தில் இருந்து வந்திருக்கின்ற ஒரு தீய பழக்கம் இது. இதை ஒரே தலைமுறையில் சட்டத்தால், அதிகாரத்தால், அடக்குமுறையால், தடியடிப் பிரயோகத்தால், சிறைத் தண்டனையால் மாற்றிவிடலாமென்று எண்ணினால், அதில் தோல்வியே ஏற்படும். மாற்றிவிடவேண்டுமென்று எண்ணுகிறவர்களுக்கு இப்பொழுது தோல்வியே வந்திருக்கிறது. மக்களுடைய உணர்ச்சியை மாற்றாமல், கொடிய பழக்கத்திற்கு அடிமைப்பட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்த மக்களின் மனதை மாற்றாமல், சட்டத்தைப் போட்டு அதனால் வெற்றியே ஏற்பட்டது என்பது எந்த நாட்டிலும் கிடையாது. மக்களுடைய பழக்கத்திற்கு அஸ்திவாரமாக இருக்கக்கூடிய நிலைமையை மாற்றாமல், பௌதிக சூழ்நிலையில் பொதுமான பொறுப்பை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு அதை மாற்றாமல், மேல் இருந்துகொண்டு சட்டத்தைப் போட்டு மாத்திரத்தில் நிச்சயமாகக் குடியை நிறுத்திவிடமுடியுமா? பொதுமக்களுக்கு சபீட்சத்தைச் செய்துவிடமுடியுமா? ஆனால், சட்டத்தை மட்டும் ஏன் போட்டார்கள்? இந்த எண்ணம் எங்கிருந்து வந்தது? ‘மகாத்மா காந்திக்கு மிகவும் பிரியமான நிர்மாணத்திட்டங்களில் மதுவிலக்கும் ஒன்று. அதை நிறைவேற்றி வைத்தால் நாம் உண்மையாக காந்தி பக்தர்களாகிவிடமுடியும். தேசபக்தர்களாகிவிடமுடியும்.’ என்கிற ஒரு எண்ணத்தை வைத்துக் கொண்டு, மக்களின் அஸ்திவாரத்தை மாற்றாமல், பௌதிக சூழ்நிலையை மாற்ற சிந்திக்காமல், இந்தச் சட்டத்தைக் கொண்டுவந்திருக்கிறார்களென்பது அவர்கள் செய்கையிலேயே நன்றாகப் பிரதிபலிக்கிறது. ஆனால், மக்களின் பிரதய்ச் வாழ்க்கையை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு பார்த்தால் நாம் என்றென்றைக்கும் மதுவிலக்குச்சட்டத்தை வெற்றிகரமாக நடத்தமுடியாது என்பது எனக்குத் தெரியும்.

“பரோலில் விடுப்பிற்கு, குடியிருந்த இடமாகிய தாம்பரத்திற்கு நான் போய் இருந்த 10, 15 நாட்களில், விசாரித்ததில் ஒரு தெருவில் எட்டு இடங்கள் பத்து இடங்கள் கள்ளச்சாராயம் காய்ச்சும் இடங்களாக ஏற்பட்டிருக்கின்றன என அறிந்தேன். புதுப் புது இடங்களில் கள்ளச் சாராயம் காய்ச்சப்படுவதாக பொது ஜனங்கள் பேசிக்கொள்வதை நான் tram-ல் போகும்போதும் வரும்போதும் தினமும் கேட்கின்றேன்.

“எதிர்த்தரப்பு நண்பர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். அதாவது சர்க்கார்த்தரப்பில் இருக்கக்கூடிய சில அன்பர்கள் பேசுகிறார்கள் : ‘எழைகளைப்பற்றி எங்களுக்குத் தெரியாது; தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்கள் வசிக்கும் சேரிளைப்பற்றியும் எங்களுக்குத் தெரியாது. மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டம் வந்ததால் மக்கள் எவ்வளவோ சந்தோஷமாக வாழ்கிறார்கள், கள் குடிப்பதை மறந்துவிட்டு

[Sri P. Jeevaanandam]

[16th July 1952]

இன்பமாக இருக்கிறார்கள் ; அவைகளெல்லாம் எங்களுக்குத்தெரியாது ' என்பதாக. ஆனால், 'அவர்களைக் காட்டிலும்' எனக்கு ஏழை மக்கள் வசிக்கக்கூடிய சந்துபொந்துகளெல்லாம் தெரியும் ; சேரிகளெல்லாம் தெரியும் ; அவர்களின் மத்தியிலேயே நாங்கள் வசித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறோம் ; அவர்களிடமே தினமும் பேசிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறோம் ; அவர்களுக்காவே நாங்களெல்லோரும் உழைத்துவருகிறோம்' என்று தலை நிமிர்ந்து நான் சொல்லுகிறேன். அந்த ஆழ்ந்த அனுபவத்தின் பேரிலேயே 'முன்பு ஊருக்கு ஒரு கள்ளக்கடை இருந்தது. ஆனால், இப்பொழுதோ அடிக்கொரு கடை வந்திருக்கிறது. முன்பு ஆண்கள் குடித்து வந்தார்கள் ; இப்பொழுது பெண்களும் கூட குடிக்கிறார்கள். முன்பு வயது வந்தவர்கள் குடித்துவந்தார்கள் ; இப்பொழுது குழந்தைகளும் கூட குடிக்கிறார்கள். ஆகையால், குடி பெருகித்தான் இருக்கிறதென்று' நான் அவர்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்.

"அதோடு மட்டுமல்ல. கவர்ன்மெண்டு தரப்பில் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். குடியைத் தவிர்ப்பதற்காக சர்க்கார்தரப்பிலும் முன்னேவிட அதிகமான ரூபாய்கள் செலவாகின்றன. அடிக்கொரு போலீஸ் ஸ்டேஷனாக ஊரெங்கும் ஏற்படுத்தியிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால், மதுவிலக்கைக் கண்காணிக்க இருக்கின்ற சர்க்கார் உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களான போலீஸ்காரர்கள் இன்று உண்மையாக அப்படிச் செய்கிறார்களா என்று பார்த்தால், கிடை யாது. சமீபத்தில் 2-ந் தேதி தொண்டையார்பேட்டை போலீஸ் ஸ்டேஷனுக்கு இரவு 1½-மணிக்குப் போனேன். போலீஸ் சப்-இன்ஸ்பெக்டர் பாக்கியன்தான் அவர்கள் குடித்திருந்தார். ஹெட் காண்ட்ஸ்டின் ஆதி கேசவலு குடி போதையிலே உருண்டிருந்தார். அவர்கள் குடித்தார்களா, குடிக்கவில்லையா என்று எனக்கு எப்படித் தெரியுமென்று கேட்கலாம். கனம் ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் காபி குடிப்பார். இருபத்தைந்து, முப்பது வருஷங்களாக, இன்னும் நான் காபி கூட குடிப்பதில்லை. அதே மாதிரியாக போதை தரும் வஸ்துக்கள் எதையுமே நான் தொடுவதில்லை. வெளியில் யாரிடம் என்னைப்பற்றிக் கேட்பாலும் தெரியும். போலீஸ் ஸ்டேஷனுக்குள் நுழைந்தபோது, அன்று அவர்கள் குடித்திருந்ததனால் ஏற்பட்ட நூற்றம் என் குடலைப் பிடுங்கி எடுத்தது. அவர்கள் குடி போதையிலே மயங்கிக் கிடந்திருக்கிறார்களென்பது அவர்கள் பேச்சிலேயே தெரிந்தது. இன்னும் பனைமரத்தோப்புக்குப் போனால், போலீஸ்காரர்கள் ஒத்தாசையோடுகூட என்னென்ன அக்கிரமங்களும் அப்டேயங்களும் நடந்துவருகின்றனதென்பது தெரியும். இந்தப் போலீஸ்காரர்கள் கள்ளத்தனமாக சாராயம் காய்ச்சுவார்களுக்கும், கள்ளத்தனமாகக் குடிப்பவர்களுக்கும், உதவிகரமாக, உந்தையாக இருக்கிறார்களே தவிர, அவர்கள் செய்யும் அப்டேயங்களுக்கெல்லாம் உப்டு நடக்கிறார்களே தவிர, மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை உண்மையாக, பூரணமாக நிறைவேற்றி வைக்கவேண்டுமென்பதற்காக, எந்தவிதமான நடவடிக்கையையும் எடுப்பதில்லை. மக்கள் குடித்துக் கொண்டே இருக்கிறார்கள்.

"மக்கள் கள் குடிப்பதோடு நிற்கவில்லை. 'கண்டி சோறு' என்ற ஒரு போதை தரும் வஸ்துவைக் கண்டுபிடித்து சாப்பிடுகிறார்கள். 'குலினி எலென்ஸ்' போன்ற போதை தரும் வஸ்துவையும் தயாரித்து சாப்பிடுகிறார்கள் என்று நீலகிரி கலெக்டர், கனம் ஸ்ரீ பழனிசாமி கவுண்டர் அவர்களிடம், நேரில் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார். இம்மாதிரி ஒரு நாளைக்கு 10 ஆயிரம் ரூபாய்க்கு அந்தச் சர்க்கு மாத்திரம் விற்கப்படுகிறதென்றால், எவ்வளவு பேர்கள் குடிக்கிறார்களென்று பாருங்கள். நூற்றுக்கு 95 பங்கு போதை தரும் வஸ்து அதில் சேர்க்கப்படுகிறது. அதைக் குடிப்பவர்கள் இரண்டு மூன்று மாதத்திலேயே உயிரை விட்டுவிடுகிறார்கள். பொருளாதார ரீதியில், சமுதாய ரீதியில், தத்துவ ரீதியில் மக்களுடைய முன்னேற்றத் திற்கு வழி காண அடிகோலாமல் இச்சட்டத்தைக் கொண்டுவந்ததனால் தான் இன்று அந்தச் சட்டம் தோற்றுப்போய்விட்டது. அது வெற்றி பெறவில்லை ; சர்க்காரின் செலவும் அதிகரித்துக்கொண்டே இருக்கிறது. அதேசமயத்தில் குடிப்பவர்கள் எண்ணிக்கையும் நாளுக்குநாள் அதிகரித்துக்கொண்டே வருகிறது. எனவே, இந்தத் தரப்பில் கொண்டுவந்

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[Sri P. Jeevanandam]

திருக்கக்கூடிய, திட்டத்தை பரிசீலனைக்கு ஒரு கமிட்டிக்கு அனுப்பவேண்டுமென்ற விஷயத்தை எல்லோரும் ஒப்புக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்கின்றேன். மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டம் தோற்றுவிட்டதன் காரணமாக, பாரபட்சமற்ற கமிட்டியை நியமித்து மேற்கொண்டு என்ன செய்ய வேண்டுமென்பதை யோசிக்க வேண்டியது இன்றியமையாததாகும். மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டம் வேண்டுமா, வேண்டாமா என்பதை ஆராய்ச்சி செய்து முடிவுக்கு வரவேண்டிய நிலையில் நாம் இருப்பதால், எதிர் தரப்புத் தலைவர் கொண்டு வந்த வெட்டுப் பிரேரணையை எல்லோரும் ஏற்றுக் கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு, நானும் வெட்டுப் பிரேரணையை ஆதரிக்கின்றேன்.”

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* DR. T. S. SOUNDARAM RAMACHANDRAN :—“ Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is some confusion in our minds in approaching this question of Prohibition. Prohibition has two aspects. One is the excise duty which was a source of large revenue yielding nearly Rs. 17 crores. If we accept the fact that this revenue is necessary for the welfare of the country and that this is a proper tax so that we may have better educational and better medical facilities, then let us take it that this source must be left untouched and that we must have these crores of rupees. Then let us not think of a Committee at all. Let us not talk about ways and means of enforcing Prohibition, about its failure, the reason for it and so on. Let us clearly state that we want the revenue and we do not want Prohibition. If that is accepted, then I have no quarrel with the opponents at all. But instead of saying that, they on the one hand say that with these crores of rupees we can do a lot of things, and at the same time they admit that Prohibition has a place and drunkenness can be checked, and they advance so many theories and suggestions and then say that they want a Committee to investigate the whole matter. I really cannot understand how our learned friend Sri T. Viswanatham who was associated with the inauguration of Prohibition could talk both ways and argue against Prohibition on the ground that it is not only a failure but also it can never be enforced by law, and then ask for a Committee to go into the question and find out ways and means of enforcing Prohibition effectively.”

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—“ On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I said, ‘I suspend my judgment until the Committee submits its report.’ ”

DR. T. S. SOUNDARAM RAMACHANDRAN :—“ I am glad, Sir. As I said, if they say that we must have the revenue, let us make no bones about it. Let us take a vote and scrap Prohibition once and for all, or at least for this year. Otherwise, let us accept Prohibition as such. Let us say that it is necessary. Nobody would say Prohibition can be enforced effectively by legislation alone. It is just not possible. Just as in the matter of prevention of corruption, we must have anti-corruption laws, and at the same time, we must enforce them by propaganda and education, so also this Prohibition has two aspects. One is to have the legal sanction for it and the other is the creation of moral sanction for it by educating the people—of course, we have religious sanction for it—about the value of Prohibition. If it is accepted by hon. Members opposite that Prohibition is good and it must

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stay, I have no hesitation in agreeing to the formation of a committee. In that case, a committee with a positive outlook can do a lot in finding ways and means of enforcing Prohibition. But if this is not guaranteed and if the scepticism is there, how can a committee give us any help even if a committee is appointed? (Interruption.) I wish to say that in some cases it might have failed as so many other things fail, in spite of good intentions. In the same way, even though Prohibition has not brought that spectacular prosperity that we expected, still I maintain my previous statement that it has brought prosperity to many homes. Let the opponents go to any area in Tamil Nad and verify this. Of course, I do not know much about the Andhra area but I know about a large portion of Travancore State as well as Tamil Nad as, in connexion with the Kasturba Trust, I have travelled very widely in Tamil districts. I tell you, women welcome it. They are happy; their financial condition has improved in some places; even in spite of heavy drought conditions, they have repaid their loans and some have put up small cottages of their own. I was very amused when hon. Members on the other side criticised so vehemently that Rajaji told in some place to women that even by selling their *thalis*, they should pay taxes. The champions of the women's cause, our friends opposite, spoke vehemently against it and said, 'That is the only thing that our sisters possess. You want them to sell it to pay taxes to the Government.' May I ask the hon. Members here how many women, every day in by-gone years, four or five years ago, lost their *thalis* on account of their drinking husbands? (Hear, hear from Congress Benches.) It is not a new thing. I have seen it with my own eyes. I have seen women being deprived of their *thalis* and everything that they possessed. Even the paddy and little foodstuffs that they had in their homes were taken away by their husbands. In such circumstances, how can hon. Members talk so lightly about Prohibition? All of them know these things because most of them are workers. They know the real conditions and yet why do they close their eyes to this *thali* business in one aspect and bring it into prominence in another aspect?

"Another thing I want to mention is this. I had been to Bombay three months after Prohibition was introduced there. In the South we are not so advanced in our ways of living as those people there. But, in fact, three months after the introduction of Prohibition there, when I visited the hospital, the scavengers' quarters, etc., the prosperity they had attained within so short a period astonished me. Everyone of the women coming to the Ante-Natal Clinic (Clinic for pregnant women's care) in a hospital meant for the poor said, 'Doctor, you can prescribe any medicine or any tonic you like. My husband is not drinking. I have more money now than before and I shall purchase the medicine needed.' It gladdened my heart to see that such prosperity should come to Bombay even within such a short time. Even now in Bombay, the people tell me that Prohibition is reasonably successful. So, Sir, I am not against the appointment of a committee, as such.

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But let us first grant the premises that Prohibition is good and that it must stay. Then a committee can help us a lot.

“ Then one word about crimes. Sir, crimes are increasing on all sides. The stress and strain of living, the desire to get rich quickly and so many other causes which men know better than women, contribute to the increase in crimes. All of us know that. But I do not know whether this Prohibition was a direct or indirect cause of the increase in crimes. I really cannot understand how it could be so. We used to hear about so many street quarrels and street brawls at night when Prohibition was not enforced. We do not now find such things at all. That means Prohibition is not a main cause of the increase in crimes.

“ Now, let us consider the question of Prohibition in a humane way. Even if the issue of sales tax is taken in this context, there the poor and the rich pay according to their capacity. If a poor man lives within Rs. 8 or Rs. 10—that is, by himself; I am not taking his family; if we take his family also, it may come to about Rs. 30 a month—and if a rich man spends Rs. 1,000 a month on his food and clothing, proportionately they pay less or more tax, according to their capacity. But when we come to the question of drink, it is the Harijans and the backward classes that drink more toddy and arrack. I am not casting any aspersion at all on them. It is their habit to drink. So, the Rs. 130 crores which the hon. Gentleman has suggested, come from the poor people who cannot afford to pay so much. This habit of drinking is a weakness, I grant. On that score, should we tax a man for this weakness? Should we want that money for educating and treating the well-to-do classes?

“ Then, we talk so much of exploitation of the poor. Of course, I am against it. But the levy of excise duty is another type of exploitation of the poor. I have been to Tanjore and other areas. Everywhere when the harvesting season comes, either one of the vested interests or other people open a few more toddy shops and the poor men and women who take their wages in kind go to those shops and pass on their wages to those toddy shop-keepers. Is it not the worst type of exploitation, Sir? Do we all want to add to this exploitation both ways? We pay them less wages and even that less amount we want to take away from them. Let us decide it one way or the other. Let us make our minds clear on this subject. If we want the tainted money by scrapping Prohibition, let us say so and get the money. If we do not accept that fact, then let us jointly endeavour and make this Prohibition a success. Thereby at least the future generation—there may be some addicts in the present generation who drink and encourage illicit distillation—can be saved from this drink evil. Therefore, I request hon. Members on this side and on that side of the House to think about this question rationally and support the Demand. Even though there are not many women here to plead their cause, let hon. Members think of their own homes or their neighbours' homes and of the havoc this drink evil has wrought in past years. Considering all these, I request all

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hon. Members to think for themselves, without any party affiliation, and treat this as a human question and support this Demand for Prohibition. Let us all endeavour to make it a reality and a success."

* SRI P. CHINNAMA REDDI :—“ Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the cut motion moved by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition. By the introduction of Prohibition, our State is losing a third of its entire revenues. Sir, it was Mahatma Gandhi who wanted this reform to be introduced in our country. True to his wishes, the Congress included this in their election manifesto of 1937. Though Mahatma Gandhi preached so many good things like truth and non-violence and wearing of khadi, such things were not taken into consideration and observed by the Congress Party, but for reasons best known to themselves, they wanted to introduce Prohibition and this reform was introduced in our State by the present Chief Minister who was also the Chief Minister in 1937. When he introduced this measure, not only the Congress Party but also the Opposition groups supported it because everyone thought that drink is an evil. The public outside the Assembly also supported the measure. The Chief Minister wanted that the revenue which was lost on account of this reform should be made good by all the people and so he introduced sales tax and said that every buyer should subscribe one pie in the rupee. People agreed to this and ever since we have been paying sales tax, entertainments tax, etc. This Prohibition scheme was not in force during the regime of the Advisers. Yet, after the working of this scheme for 8 years opinion is still divided. The ex-Finance Minister said on the floor of the previous Assembly in March last that Prohibition was not working properly and that a referendum must be taken. The ex-Chief Ministers and some Congress Members and some Council Members who are now on the Treasury Benches to-day have also spoken in the past that Prohibition was a failure. Even now, during the budget discussion, several Congress Members spoke that this Prohibition should be abolished. Of course all the Opposition Members have said that Prohibition is a failure and should be scrapped. Even now, opinion is divided and the scheme is a failure. The Police say that the public are not co-operating with them and the public say that the Police are not discharging their duty properly and so the scheme has failed. Hon. Members of the House may know that in their constituencies, people are resorting to varnish, French polish and other poisonous drugs. In many places, people were allowed to tap sweet toddy. In such cases, they are not only tapping sweet toddy but also making toddy out of it. It is really a very easy thing for these tappers to convert the sweet juice into toddy. It is only a matter of two hours. If the sweet toddy is allowed to get fermented, it will become toddy. I do not really know why the Government have given permission for tapping sweet toddy, which is almost equal to toddy. If the sweet toddy is placed in hot sun for two hours, it will become toddy. So the process of converting sweet toddy into toddy is very simple. There is no point in allowing people to tap sweet toddy.

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p.m.

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[Sri P. Chinnama Reddi]

" The Congress party is supposed to be a united body receiving directions from the Centre. But, so far as this policy is concerned, there is no uniformity. In some States, there is total Prohibition, in some States they have just begun, in some States they have not yet begun and in some other States they have failed and have gone back from this policy of Prohibition. Even Pandit Nehru, when he came to Madras, advised the Madras Government to go slow with this policy of Prohibition. In the Bangalore Congress session, he said that urgent problems like food and drinking water must have priority over Prohibition. Because of this Prohibition policy only, the Centre is not helping our State as it ought to and as it has been helping other States. Pandit Nehru feels that our State is simply wasting money on this policy, and so he does not want to give more funds and help this State Government. Our Chief Minister knowing fully well that this is a failure has said in Coimbatore that so long as he continued as Chief Minister, Prohibition will stay. I really cannot understand the tone in which the Chief Minister has spoken. It is something like a statement coming from the mouth of a Dictator and not a Chief Minister in a democratic form of Government. For, the principle of democracy is to follow and not to flout public opinion. His statement that so long as he continued as Chief Minister, this Prohibition will stay only resembles dictatorship and nothing else. It is not properly worded in the present circumstances. He perhaps feels that as he has introduced this scheme originally, he will lose his prestige if he were now to go back on this. In spite of knowing full well that this is a failure, he thinks like that."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Prohibition, in connexion with which the present Demand is being moved here, is a very controversial subject to-day. The controversy is not in and around the principle of Prohibition. In fact, the discussion up till now has made one thing abundantly clear, viz., that Prohibition in principle and spirit is agreeable to all concerned. I suppose a referendum regarding the principle of Prohibition might properly be taken among the women whose husbands are indulging in beating them and in other cruel acts, and their opinion ascertained. Prohibition in principle may be all right, but Prohibition in practice is not properly working. Now, the Madras Prohibition Act which has been on the Statute Book for the last 15 years has been working in certain limited areas in the first instance and has been subsequently extended to all the other areas in this State. We have gathered enough experience as to its having worked one way or the other. It has been found in various other States in India that Prohibition cannot be enforced rigorously or successfully. Take for instance, Coorg, which was for a very long time directly administered by the Centre, where they have a sort of rationing. Again, committees have gone into this question in other States. They have all recommended only partial Prohibition or a kind of rationing in respect of drinks like toddy which will usually be consumed by the poorer sections of the population, and imposition of heavy taxes on foreign liquor.

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at the same time decontrolling such costly liquors. Various experiments have been tried in other places. As was pointed out by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, we learn it from high quarters and I think even the Prime Minister of India himself has expressed the opinion that we must adopt a policy of 'Go Slow'. The directive principles of State Policy in the Constitution definitely lay down what the States have to do. According to those principles, what the States are expected to do is to bring into operation a kind of Prohibition which might promote sobriety as against insobriety. That does not mean that we must be all out for Prohibition and all at once. It has now been found in every country and even in our own State that the Prohibition Act is more honoured in the breach than in observance. It has been a costly failure. It has been an extravagant ideal which is sought to be thrust down our throats by incurring enormous expenditure and by foregoing enormous income. I for one heartily agree with the Chief Minister in saying that Prohibition in principle is agreeable. If people could be persuaded to adopt Prohibition, it will be an ideal state of affairs. There must be a terrific campaign to persuade people to adopt Prohibition. There are certain persons who have a partiality for satyagraha—I say this deliberately—and they can even start a satyagraha in this matter, if they have the strength of mind. Such persons must come forward to carry on a vigorous satyagraha or campaign as the case may be, in favour of Prohibition and persuade the people to make Prohibition a success. That is the thing which we must do in the present state of affairs. Let us face realities and let us face facts. The Chief Minister is a great realist. We have had 15 years' experience in running this department. It is absolutely clear beyond any doubt whatsoever that Prohibition has not been successful during this period. As was rightly pointed out by the doyen of this House, Mr. P. T. Rajan, it has been a total failure, and there has been a complete breakdown of the Prohibition machinery and illicit distillation has been flourishing as a cottage industry. I think some hon. Member rightly said that it has come to stay as a large-scale industry. Why should they hamper the cause of Prohibition like this and allow illicit distillation to go on unchecked as a cottage industry as well as large-scale industry? Let them put an end to this illicit distillation. Some have argued that there must be more rigorous punishment. Let me tell those friends that by making the sentences more rigorous, they are not going to successfully enforce the Prohibition Act. As a matter of fact, even now I have been shocked to find that in many cases some of the Magistrates or Sub-Magistrates have given very deterrent sentences because of the influence of the executive. It might be that in the District Prohibition Committees, they might have decided to give some severe sentences. Naturally, the officers most of whom are only Deputy Tahsildars, Tahsildars, Sub-Magistrates or Magistrates have to think of their career and so, they have yielded to executive pressure and influence and under their instructions given severe sentences to the Prohibition offenders. As a result of this, even very good, virtuous and honourable men who

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have committed only minor offences have been sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for three months and even six months in some cases. When they return from jail, they are considered not only as drunkards but also blackguards. Is this the way in which you want to enforce the Prohibition Act? I strongly feel that if such a method of giving very rigorous punishment is adopted, it will only aggravate the drink evil. We must adopt different methods altogether. Some hon. Members said, 'Oh! we must prescribe one year rigorous imprisonment for people found guilty of intoxication or found guilty of having manufactured arrack or found guilty of having engaged themselves in illicit distillation' and so on. If this suggestion is accepted and if the administrative and detective machinery is efficient enough to detect all such cases, then I am afraid half the population of this State will find themselves in jails. Already we are told that all our jails are overcrowded with Prohibition offenders. Quite a lot of money is being spent on this.

" Sir, I am second to none, not even the Hon. Chief Minister, in accepting Prohibition in principle. But I certainly feel that the present enforcement machinery is quite unsuitable and the enforcement of the Prohibition Act has unfortunately been a grandiose and catastrophic failure. I do not wish to indulge in generalizations, but I must say that in practice we have found that the Prohibition staff were perhaps the first sinners. We have witnessed a parade of poor people being brought to courts. A regular procession of poor workers and poor cultivators are being daily brought before the courts for having committed minor offences, and they are sentenced to severe punishment. On the other hand, the richer classes of people are allowed to go scot-free. They are not touched at all. I know several such cases in my town in Malabar. Again, a number of rich and influential people, and perhaps some Members of this House or the Council, are holding permits. So, there is the Prohibition Act, but the rules and regulations are applied only to the poor people and not to the richer classes in society. This is the real position. That is why I said that the Prohibition staff are the first sinners. They themselves are not sincere in the administration of this Act. In practice, we find that the executive machinery has miserably failed. No doubt Prohibition is an ideal and I claim it as such along with the Chief Minister. But, there are other considerations which we should take into account. Some people feel that this is an experiment which will never prove successful. Whatever it is, if you want to wean people away from the drink evil, then you must think of some other methods. It is time we take stock of the whole situation and constitute a Committee, as suggested by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, to review the whole position. There is paramount need for the constitution of such a Committee to devise ways and means, first of all to assess if the Prohibition Act that has been on the Statute Book till now has been a success—most of us are of course convinced that it has been an utter failure—and if it has not been successful to suggest better methods of enforcement, which should

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be less harassing. I only want to impress on the Government that they should not go on persecuting people in this fashion, at the same time saying that they want to preach morality to the people. Surely, this is not the method of moralising and sermonising the people.

5 p.m. " It has been well said that law lags behind public opinion and public opinion behind morality. So, we must raise to a particular level the moral consciousness of the people when Prohibition will be accepted by the general sense of the community as right. That is not done now. Therefore, we must create first a sense of morality and go forward and mobilise public opinion. After public opinion has developed to a certain stage, we must enforce it by legal sanction in the shape of an enactment. As it is we have not become ripe for that stage. Let me emphasize, Sir, that I should not be confused with those who say that it is the 'fundamental right' of the people to take this 'nectar' and throw themselves into a fine frenzy in the evening or night. I am all out against them. But I do feel that the Madras Prohibition Act has not been working satisfactorily. Let us copy the example of Coorg and Mysore and go into the question of how Bombay and Madhya Pradesh have fared. Let us learn by the advice and counsel given by the Prime Minister of India to go slow in this matter.

" Sir, the time at my disposal is very short and I want to touch on one more point before I conclude. The Ayurvedic physicians are harassed in Malabar in the working of the Prohibition Act. They are harassed and persecuted. I wonder whether the Government are aware of an industry thriving in Malabar in spite of Prohibition, the banana essence industry. The Government have not yet taken any steps to prevent the free flow of banana and other fruit essences which are surely deleterious. They affect the stomachs and shorten the lives of people because they have a high percentage of alcohol in them. Such dangerous preparations are freely marketed in the country and the Treasury Benches have not wakened up to this danger. Any Government which has failed to take steps to prevent the sale of such essences has no right to say that Prohibition should be continued any more. I would like to know what the Government propose to do in dealing with these essences of banana and other fruits. While the banana essence trade is thriving well, the poor Ayurveda physicians as a class are being penalised. The innocent physicians are harassed under the guise of the Prohibition Act. They are asked to pay a fee for each asava or arishta that has to be sent up for analysis as to the alcoholic content thereof. Then a fee of twenty rupees or so is collected from the poor doctors for the sale of each kind of asava or arishta. The result is that the Ayurveda science in Malabar stands in peril of being wiped out, if the present orders are not altered. Is this a step against the Ayurvedic physicians or a policy of Prohibition misguided? I feel that no Government has any moral right to prevent the Ayurvedic physicians from prescribing asavas and arishtas. Yet their voice is not heard probably because they are ignorant and cannot mobilise public opinion and

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trouble the Government. They are being suppressed and gagged and all kinds of restrictions are put upon them. On the contrary, the banana essences thrive. The traders and producers of banana essences have perhaps got sufficient pull with the Government. That is why they are left undisturbed. Therefore, I appeal to the Government to come to the rescue of the Ayurvedic physicians."

SRI P. THIMMA REDDI :—" Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a Demand on which every Member here was asked to explain himself with reference to the stand he took when he went to canvass votes in the recent elections. I am finding it very difficult how to express my feelings and how to respect the feelings of sisters like Dr. Soundaram Ramachandran and others. This is a very complicated issue. Even Mr. Viswanatham and his group of people are finding it difficult which way to settle the issue. I know there was a time when they felt whether they could not defeat the Government on their policy of Prohibition. Discussion went on for days and weeks and now the whole thing has come to a question of committee. Sir, there is no doubt there is need for a committee. But what is that committee to do? Is it to examine whether Prohibition is a success or a failure? Is it for that you want a committee? Do you doubt that it is not a failure? Every one here in this House feels that it has not worked successfully. We do not need a committee to examine its success or failure. If there is anything to be examined and if there is anything to be suggested, let it be on the constructive side. Let us contribute our suggestions how to work it best or to scrap it. If we think it should be scrapped, and if we can convince every one in this House whether he is big or small or whether he belongs to this side or to the other side, let it be scrapped. As some of these political theories and ideologies that were born and bred up and experimented for a while in some country, have been let loose very dangerously throughout the world, so also Prohibition which is still in the experimental stage has been let loose on this State. If Rajaji, who brought in this legislation in this State a long time ago—about 15 years ago—did not introduce it throughout the Province, it was because he wanted to experiment with it. He wanted to find out the loopholes in the Prohibition Law; he wanted to find out the methods by which he could make it a success. When he left the Government there was some move to repeal it. But then came a set of people, I am sorry to say this, who were in a race, who were in a craze for power and extended Prohibition to all the districts in the State at one stroke. I do not know if Mr. Viswanatham was present in the House at that time. If he was, I do not know why he did not suggest that it should be gradually extended. Some of my friends who are still sitting here did not then think in that way. (Interruption by Sri T. Viswanatham.) Do not interrupt me: I am going to defend you. (Laughter.) If Mr. Viswanatham had been in the House some time ago when Prohibition was extended he might have said that it should be gradually extended. If he had not said so, it was probably because his allegiance to the party was so strong that he could not over-ride its mandate. It is only today perhaps that he finds it possible to

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suggest to the Chief Minister that it should be examined. Sir, there is no need for examination. Every one of us speaking here has mentioned certain difficulties and dangers involved in working this Prohibition. Let us ask the Chief Minister to examine these and allow him time if he wants to study the entire working of the scheme. Let the Government exert their best and let them use their brains—I have no hesitation in conceding all brains to the Chief Minister—to see if there is at least one single defect. If there is one let them not hesitate to scrap it. We have placed here all the difficulties experienced in the working of the Act. We have placed them before the House which means that the entire people of this State know the defects of the Act. I say, Sir, some political speculators, like businessmen who spend lot of money only for getting higher profits, speculated in Prohibition and brought about this damnation. I am not worried about the loss in the revenue to the State. It may be sixteen crores or even sixty-four crores which is the total amount budgeted for here. It is not the money that I am concerned with. I am concerned with the other aspects. It will indeed be a blessing from Heaven if Prohibition could be made a success. But our experience is otherwise. Lakhs of people have been thrown out of employment. Poor toddy tappers have no occupation today. There is a big scramble for land now. Some of the toddy tappers who find nothing to live upon occupy themselves in a work which we condemn. What is happening now? I quite agree with the Government that sweet toddy should not be converted into toddy. But what have the Government done to prevent it? They must have devised some method of collecting sweet toddy and converting it into jaggery by using some chemicals. Or they must have devised some apparatus which could preserve the sweet state of toddy all the time so that it could be used as a beverage like Spencer's soda, etc. That would have been very fine as a drink. Such an attempt was never made. I say, Sir, it is your duty to find employment for these ex-toddy tappers. It is said that in Tirunelveli district for the benefit of the ex-tappers, you have opened a number of co-operative societies. You must endeavour to start a number of like societies in other districts also. You have not done all this till now but since a new Government is here, I hope something will be done now at least.

“Coming to the enforcement side, so long as there is respect for law, there is Government. The day when that law is forgotten, there is no Government. I know in this State especially defiance of law is taught to not only men but women and children also. Even teachers in schools which are receiving aid from the Government teach the students defiance of law and opposition to the Government. Should we allow this kind of defiance of law by the people? Do not we know that by concentrating upon a particular policy, it is easy to make people defy a particular mandate or a particular law of the Government? Is it not our own experience? Why should there be so many cases otherwise? It may be that the psychology of the people might have gone bad. All the same, during war time and since, the moral standards of the people have come down . . .”

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DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member has two minutes more."

SRI P. THIMMA REDDI :—" The Hon. the Speaker said that he would give me five minutes extra. Kindly therefore give effect to what he has said so that I may have seven minutes from now."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" The Speaker has allotted only ten minutes for each Member. The hon. Member will finish his speech in another three minutes."

SRI P. THIMMA REDDI :—" Yes, Sir. The Police are finding it difficult to detect cases. The biggest detection staff have expressed to me individually that it is very difficult to detect cases. I will give one instance to show how it is impossible. In a particular district in Andhra three sub-inspectors in three different stations were assaulted by the constables. The assault was due to a trouble that arose while dividing the mamools. There are certain towns where the Police get mamools of two to ten thousand rupees. I say this because to detect a case is very difficult since the Police get mamools.

" Then, my friend, Mr. V. R. Krishna Ayyar referred to deterrent punishments awarded now in Prohibition cases. I have seen myself how innocent men are dragged to Court. Even the Police and the big men in towns cannot lay hands on the criminal. There are rowdies in the village who cannot be approached by the Police. The Police simply catch some innocent men, foist cases against them and take them before the sub-magistrates who award them some sentence. I say, Sir, it is immoral to collect any money as fine from these people. It is immoral again to send people to jail. If it is morals that we are fighting for, let us work for raising the standards of morality of the people in working this Act also.

" There is talk of public co-operation. Sir, every time the District Prohibition Committee meets, there is talk of lack of public co-operation. How can we give co-operation in public? It is a City here but we live in mofussal stations. There are people everywhere who like to cut the throat of one another. Recently there was some theft in the City. The Police were vigilant in booking the culprits. Here, the entire Police could be mobilised and put on the work. But in villages, for example, out of every ten murders committed, only one or two or three would be brought to court. How can you expect villagers to give co-operation in public? Whether right or wrong, if I give evidence in a case, I am sure my hut will be set fire to, my corn destroyed and my bulls killed. Who is giving us protection? You may give us arms and licences. But when something happens, I must pledge my property and pay the policemen who come to investigate the crime. I must pay even thousands of rupees to escape, having given evidence in the case! There is no question of giving revolvers or rifles. These will not help to put down crime. Let us have an intensive temperance propaganda unit, if we really mean the job.

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"Finally, Sir, I want to say a word on Mr. Viswanatham's Motion for a committee. I say, your committee has done its work. Every one of us here has done the work. There is no necessity for a committee? If the Hon. the Chief Minister wishes to have some time to examine the whole thing, we shall give him the time and then ask for an assurance from him that if he is convinced Prohibition is a failure, it should be scrapped."

5-15
p.m.

* SRI G. ANJANEYULU :—“అధ్యక్ష, ఈ cut motion ను నేను బలపరుస్తున్నాను కృష్ణా జిల్లాలో నా అనుభవాన్ని నేను చెబుతున్నాను. నా అనుభవముకూడా తీసుకొని శ్రీ రాజగోపాలాచారి మంత్రివర్గానికి ప్రజల విషయము తెలుసుకొని దానిమీద ప్రజల ఆభిప్రాయము యీ మద్యపాన నిషేధం విషయంలో ఏమి జరుగుతున్నదో కూడా గుర్తించారని అనిస్తున్నాను. ఎందుకంటే మా కృష్ణా జిల్లాలో ఈ మద్యపాన నిషేధం ఏ రకంగా fail అయినదో Prohibition department వారు ఎలా పనిచేస్తున్నారో గత సంవత్సరం కృష్ణా జిల్లా Prohibition Committee ఐదొండు ఆంధ్ర ప్రభుత్వం వారి పత్రాల ఆధారంగా ప్రకటించబడినది. ఇదే సంవత్సరములో గత మాసంలో కృష్ణా జిల్లా కలెక్టరు ఆఫీసులో prohibition కమిటీ మీటింగు సమావేశం వరకు యీ Prohibition ఏ రకంగా fail అవుతున్నదీ, దానికి కారణములు, యీ Prohibition department ఉద్యోగస్తులు ఏ రకంగా ప్రయత్నిస్తున్నారన్నది తెలుసుకున్నారు. ఈ జిల్లాలో Co-operative Registrar గారు కూడా యీ Prohibition department ఉద్యోగస్తులే యీ Prohibition succeed కాకుండా చేస్తున్నారన్నది, ప్రజలు, గ్రామాధికారులుకూడా యీ సమస్య మీద ప్రభుత్వంతో సహకరించడం లేదన్నది యీ త్రాగే జనానికి, రకస్యముగా దొంగ సారాయి కాచి black market లో అమ్మటానికి దోహదమిచ్చి, లంచాలు తీసుకొని ఈ prohibition succeed కాకుండా చేస్తున్నారని కూడా తెలుసుకున్నారు. ఇట్లాంటి షరీతులలో prohibition succeed కావాలంటే ఎట్లా అవుతుందో గవర్నమెంటువారి ఆలోచించుకోవచ్చును. ఇదివరకు పూరికి రెండు పూర్లు ఒక కల్లు దుకాణం వుండేది. అది యును ఆ వృత్తిలో ఉన్నవారి అమ్మకాని జీవించేవారు. యిప్పుడు ప్రతి గ్రామానికి అన్ని జాతులకు బట్టిపట్టి కాయడం, అమ్మడం వంటి కటిక పరిశ్రమ మందిర తయారయింది. ఏకీ వారానికి కొన్ని కేసులు యిస్తామని Prohibition department వారితో ఒడంబడిక చేసికొనుట కూడా కష్టం. ఇందుకని యీ Prohibition Act ప్రభుత్వంవారు పెట్టినందువల్ల లాభమేమి. దీనికింద ఎంత డబ్బు వ్రయమవుతున్నదో ప్రభుత్వంవారి గ్రహించవచ్చును. ఈ విషయాలు అన్నియు యీ ఎన్నికలకు సంబంధించిన ప్రతి అభ్యర్థికి కూడా తెలుసును. నామినేట్ చేయబడ్డ అభ్యర్థులకు తెలియకపోవచ్చును. దేశంలో ప్రతి ఓర్ కు కూడా యిప్పుడు యీ మద్యపానం ఎలా ప్రయోగిస్తున్నారనేదిన్నీ, ఎట్లా యీ Prohibition department సరిగా అమలుచేయలేక పోతున్నదిన్నీ తెలుసును. ఈ మద్యపానము చాలావరకు పేద ప్రజానీకము అనగా కూలి, నాలి చేసుకునేవారే దీనిని ఎక్కువగా ప్రయోగించుతారు. ప్రభుత్వంవారు అవార ధాన్యాలకు కంట్రోలు పెట్టి దేశంలో వున్న గింజ గట్టు అంతయూ తీసుకొని వెళ్తారు. కూలి చేసుకుందామంటే, సరిపడ్డ కూలి దొరకటం లేదు అని యీ పేద ప్రజానీకం చెబుతున్నారు. Co-operative Registrar గారు యీ కృష్ణా జిల్లాలో సుమారు పది వేల కుటుంబాలు యీ మద్యపాన నిషేధంవల్ల నిరుద్యోగిలయ్యారనిన్నీ అందుకుగాను ఆరవై అయిదు (65) Co-operative Societies పెట్టించి యిచ్చామని అన్నారు. ఈ ఆరవై అయిదు సొసైటీలకు

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[Sri G. Anjaneyulu]

గాను ఆ యిదు సొసైటీలకు మాత్రమే ఖానులు యిచ్చామని Co-operative Registrar గారు చెప్పారు. ఇదియునుగాక యీ కల్లగీత సనివార్లకు Co-operative Milk Societies గూడా పెట్టించినామని ఆన్నారు. ఈ సొసైటీలలో కూడా organization సరిగా లేదు. ఉదాహరణకు బందరులో మాజీ కల్లగీతవారి పాలసంఘం బందరు జనరల్ హాస్పిటలుకు తక్కువ రేటుకు సప్లయ చేస్తామంటే Co-operative Registrar స్థానిక పెత్తందార్లు కుట్రలతోనై ఎక్కువ రేటు పెట్టి యితర సొసైటీల పాలను రెకమెండు చేస్తూయన్నారు. ఈ విషయములో కరపత్రాలు గూడా ప్రమంబి, జిల్లా కలెక్టరువారివద్ద యీ విషయములు తర్లకబెట్టనలు జరిపి వారి దృష్టికి కూడా లేవడమైంది. కాని ఫలితం మాత్రం సూన్యం. ఈ విషయము లన్నియు యీ ప్రద్యోగస్థులలోనే జరుగుచున్నవి. కాని యీ సొసైటీలు ఈ పేద ప్రజాసీకానికి విమియ ప్రపయోగముగా లేవు. దేశంలో procurement గాని Prohibition గాని, నిజంగా ప్రజల సహకారము లేనిదే యివి సరిగా succeed కావు అని నేను ప్రభుత్వంతానికి మనవిచేయుచున్నాను. ప్రభుత్వంవారు యీ విషయము లన్నియు గుర్తించలేకపోతున్నారు. అంతేకాకుండా ఈ విషయములన్నియు నిజము తెలుసుకొనవలెనంటే ప్రజల ముందుకు వెళ్లి వాళ్లయొక్క మొర అలకించిలే చాగుండునని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను. ముఖ్యంగా యీ పేద ప్రజాసీకం తినటానికి, తిండి, కట్టడానికి గుడ్డ, బ్రతుకటానికి కూలి అన్ని విధములా ప్రభుత్వంవారు లేకుండా చేస్తున్నారు. అలా లక్షలాది అని యీ పేద ప్రజలు కూలినాలి చేసుకొని సాయం కాలము ఇంటికి వచ్చేసరికి యీ కల్ల అయినా త్రాగి యీ శరీర కష్టం తీర్చుకుని బ్రతుకుదామని అనకుంటే యీ కల్ల గూడా లేకుండా ప్రభుత్వంవారు యీ Prohibition తీసుకొని వచ్చి నెత్తిన పెట్టారు. ఇక యీ పేద ప్రజాసీకం బలికేది ఎట్లు అని అందోళన చేస్తున్నారు. ప్రభుత్వంవారు ప్రతి గ్రామానికి వెళ్లి యీ సొసైటీలు ఏ రకంగా పనిచేస్తున్నాయి అని దర్యాప్తి చేస్తే అన్ని విషయములు ప్రభుత్వంతాకే బోధపడగలవని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను. ప్రభుత్వంవారు గాంధీగారి పేరు చెబుతూ, మద్యపాననిషేధం అమలు పెట్టాలని ప్రజలను మభ్యపెట్టి నానా పాంస చేస్తున్నారు. కాని పెద్దపెద్ద జీతములు, అలవెన్సులు విషయంలో గాంధీగారి పేరు చెప్ప నవసరంలేదు. కూలినాలి చేసుకొనేవారు, విదోవిధంగా బ్రతుకుతూవుంటే యీ పేద ప్రజాసీకం కష్టసుఖాలు ప్రభుత్వంవారు గమనించడంలేదు. కొంతమంది గత ఎన్నికల సందర్భంలో యీ మద్యపాన నిషేధం చట్టం తీసివేస్తారని ప్రచారం చేశారు. నిజానికి యీ Prohibition ఉన్నటువంటి పరిస్థితులలో శ్రీ రాజగోపాలాచారిగారు మంత్రివర్గానికి వచ్చిన తరువాత గత మంత్రి పదాన్ని గురించి ఏ విధంగా విమర్శించుచున్నది చాగుగా బోధపడగలదు. శ్రీ రాజగోపాలాచారిగారి మంత్రివర్గం మీద విశ్వాసం ప్రజలకు కలగాలంటే యీ Prohibition అయినా సరే, తీసివేయడం అవసరమేదా అని మంత్రివర్గం అలాచించమని మనవిచేస్తున్నాను. దీమల ఇల్లు చిమ్మపెట్టినట్లు యీ పేద ప్రజాసీకానికి ప్రభుత్వంవారు తినటానికి తిండి కూడా లేకుండా చేస్తున్నారంటే, త్రాగి అయిన బ్రతుకుదామని అనుకోటానికి కల్లగూడా దొరకకుండా చేశారు అని అంటున్నారు. చాలామంది కల్లలో విటమిన్లు ఉన్నాయనిచెప్పారు. Dr. Mrs. S. Ramachandran డాక్టరయిత్రుడిచూడా యీవిషయం అంగీకరించకపోవడం విచారకరం. ఈ Prohibition పెట్టక ముందు ఎక్కడోబీదకుటుంబాలు తిండికిబియ్యలే, లేవ్వకునే కూలికానా, త్రాగుడుకుసానీ, చివరకు కొంతమంది మంగళసూత్రములు అమ్ముకొని కాలక్షేపం చేసినవారు ఉన్నారనిఆన్నారు. ఇంతేకాకుండా కొంతమంది ఇంటాల్లో అడవల్లో భర్తలను త్రాగకుండా తగాదాచేస్తే వాగినగలు వగైరా బలవంతంగా తీసు

16th July 1952] [Sri S. Ramasamy Naidu]

நம்முடைய அங்கத்தினர்கள் கவனிக்க வேண்டும். சுமார் 18 கோடி ரூபாய் வருமானம் சர்க்காருக்கு வரும்போது ஏழைகளுக்கு சுமார் 60 அல்லது 70 கோடி ரூபாய் அதை வாங்குவதற்கு செலவழிக்கப்பட்டது என்பதை நாம் எல்லோரும் நன்கு அறிவோம். எத்தனையோ கள்ளுக்கடைக்காரர்கள் கள்ளில் நாலு பங்கு தண்ணீரையும் பதனியையும் கலந்து மற்றும் பல வகை மருந்துகளையும் கலந்து எட்டு பங்காக்கி ஏழை மக்களுக்கு இந்தக் கள்ளுக்கடைக்காரர்கள் விற்பிறுக்கிறார்கள் என்பது நமக்குத் தெரியும். அவர்கள் குடிமக்கத்தில் எதைக் கொடுத்தாலும் அதை வாங்கி சாப்பிட்டு மடிந்து போயிருப்பதை நாம் அறிவோம். இப்பொழுது இந்தக் குடியை ஒழித்திருப்பதால் சர்க்காருக்கு வரும் வருமானம் 18 கோடி ரூபாய் நின்றதென்றாலும் மக்களிடம் சுமார் 60 கோடி ரூபாய் மீதமாகி விட்டது. ஐந்து கோடி மக்களுக்கு கலால் வருமானத்தை எவ்வளவு தூரம் பகிர்ந்து கொடுத்து அவர்களுடைய நிதி நிலைமையை முன்னேற்றலாம் என்பதை நன்கு யோசித்துப் பார்க்க வேண்டும். இந்தப் பணத்தை வேறு வகையில் செலவிட்டு விட்டு ஏழை மக்களுக்கு நாம் ஒன்றும் செய்ய முடியாதவர்களை விடுவோம். இந்தக் குடியை நாம் இப்பொழுது ஒழித்திருப்பதன் மூலம் ஏழை மக்களுக்கு 60 கோடி ரூபாய் அவர்களுடைய குடும்பத்திற்கு உபயோகப்படக்கூடிய சந்தர்ப்பம் கொடுத்திருக்கிறோம். இதைவிட இந்த 18 கோடி ரூபாய் கலால் வருமானத்தை ஏழை மக்களுக்குக் கொடுத்து உதவமுடியுமா? அவர்களுடைய வருமானத்தை தீவர்க்கு ஐந்து பங்கு ஆறு பங்கு என்று உயர்த்துவதற்கு உங்களால் ஏற்பாடு செய்ய முடியுமா? என்பதை நாம் நன்கு யோசனை செய்து பார்க்க வேண்டும்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக நல்ல முறையில் இதை நடத்த முடியாமல் இருக்கும் போது இதை ஏன் நடத்த வேண்டும் என்று சொன்னார்கள். இதையும் நன்கு யோசித்துப் பார்க்க வேண்டும். நாம் இன்றைக்கு நமது தொகுதிகளின் பிரதிநிதிகளாக வந்திருக்கிறோம். தேர்தல் சம்பந்தமாக கிராமம் கிராமமாகச் சென்று, வீடு வீடாகச் சென்று, வாக்குக் கேட்டு வந்ததன் மூலம் அநேகமாக நம்முடைய தொகுதியில் எல்லா மக்களையும் நன்றாக அறிந்து கொண்டோம். குடிப்பழக்கம் வேண்டாம், குடிப்பழக்கம் வேண்டாம், குடிப்பழக்கம் நாட்டிற்கு கெடுதி, பஞ்சமா பாதகங்களில் ஒன்று என்று மக்கள் சொல்லி வந்ததை நாம் அறிவோம். குடிப்பழக்கம் நமக்கு இழிவு செய்யும் என்று மக்கள் சொல்லி வந்தது நமக்கு தெரியும். பொது மக்கள் அறிவு மிகுந்தவர்கள். ஆற்றல் மிகுந்தவர்கள். மக்கள் சக்தியுள்ளவர்கள். நிலைமை இவ்விதம் இருக்கும்போது நாட்டின் நன்மையை உத்தேசித்திருந்தால் யாருக்கு நாம் பிரதிநிதிகளாக வந்தோமோ அவர்கள் அறியாமல் செய்யும் இந்தக்கண் குடியை நாம் தடுக்க முடியும் என்பதை யோசித்துப் பார்க்கவேண்டும். அரசாங்கம் நன்றாக நடக்க வேண்டுமென்றால் ஏழை மக்கள் நல்ல நிலையிலிருக்க வேண்டுமென்றால் அரசியல் காரணங்களுக்காக குடிப் பழக்கத்தைக் கொண்டு வரவேண்டுமென்று சொல்வது நல்லது அல்ல. இப்பொழுது அறியாமையால் எங்கேயாவது சாராயம் காய்ச்சப்பட்டு வந்தால் அதைத் தடுக்க நாங்கள் தயாராக இருக்கவேண்டும். நம்முடைய நாட்டில் இந்தக் குடிப் பழக்கத்தை நிறுத்துவதற்கு முயன்றால் இதை ஒரு வருஷத்தில் நிறுத்திக் காட்ட முடியும். அதற்கு பொது மக்களும் அங்கத்தினர்களும் சட்டப்படி ஒத்துழைத்தால் ஒரு வருஷத்தில் நிறுத்தி விடலாம். நிறுத்தவும் முடியும். எதிர் கட்சித் தலைவர் கனம் ஸ்ரீ விசுவனாதம் அவர்கள், ஐந்து வருஷத்தில் ஒன்றும் செய்யமுடியாததை நாம் சொற்ப காலத்தில் என்ன செய்ய முடியும் என்று கேட்கிறார். ஐந்து வருஷத்தில் ஆதிக்கம் அடைந்த நாஜி ஜெர்மனியைச் சொற்ப காலத்தில் ஜனநாயக நாடுகள் முறியடிக்க வில்லையா என்பதை யோசித்துப் பார்க்க வேண்டும். பல சக்திகளின் பலத்தைத் தெரிந்து கொண்டு இதைக் கண்டு பயந்து விடக்கூடாது. எதிர்த்துப் போராடி இதை முறியடிக்க முடியும். நிறுத்த முடியும் என்று காட்ட முடியும். ஆகையால் இந்தக் குடிப்பழக்கத்தைக் கொண்டு வரவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுகிறவர்கள் ராஜாங்க அரசியல் தோரணையில் சொல்லுகிறார்களேயொழிய மற்றப்படி அந்தரங்கமாக இது வேண்டும் என்று எண்ணிச் சொல்லவில்லை. நாட்டில் நூற்றுக்கு பத்து பேர்கள்

[Sri S. Ramasamy Naidu]

[16th July 1952]

தான் இதைக் குடிக்கின்றார்கள். இந்தப் பத்துப் பேர்களும் பாமர மக்கள். ஏழைகள் என்பதை அறிய வேண்டும். அந்த ஏழைகளுடைய நிலையை ஆராயவேண்டும். இந்த ஏழைகளின் நிலைமை வாஸ்தவமாக உயர வேண்டுமானால் இந்தக் குடிப்பழக்கத்தை அறவே நிறுத்த முயல் வேண்டும். ஸ்ரீமான் விசுவநாதம் அவர்களும் இருபது வருஷ காலம் நம்மோடு கூட இருந்து வந்தவர்தான். வைகலும் நீருள் கிப்பினும் கல்லிற்கு மெல்லென்றல் சால் அரிதாகும் என்றபடி இந்த இருபது வருஷங்களிலும் காங்கிரஸ் லட்சியங்களையும் அதன் கொள்கைகளையும் தெரிந்துகொள்ள சக்தியற்றவர் இந்த ஐந்து வருஷ காலத்தில் குடிப் பழக்கம் ஒழிக்கக்கூடியது என்பதை எப்படித் தெரிந்து கொள்ளப்போகிறார்? அரசியல் காரணங்களினால் தான் அவர் இப்படி இப்பொழுது பேசி வருகிறார். அவர் சொல்வதை விட்டு விட்டு அனைவரும் நாட்டிற்கு நல்லது செய்ய வேண்டும். ஏழைகளின் நிலைமை உயர வேண்டுமென்றால், ஏழைகளின் வாழ்க்கைத் தரம் உயர வேண்டுமென்றால், ஏழைகளின் பண நிலை உயர வேண்டுமென்றால், நாம் அவர்களுக்குக் குடிப்பழக்கத்தை திரும்பவும் புதுத்தக் கூடாது. இப்பொழுது பார்த்தால் ஏழை மக்களின் வீடுகளில் பணம் புழங்கிக் கொண்டு வருகிறது. அவர்களும் தங்களுடைய பணத்தை எடுத்து தாராளமாக, சௌகரியமாக செலவு செய்து வருகிறார்கள். பெண்களும் நகை நடற்கள் போட்டுக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். பாட சாலைகளுக்கு தங்களுடைய குழந்தைகளை அனுப்பி வைப்பதற்கு சக்தியுள்ளவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள். ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய வீடுகள் கல்யாண கரமாக இருக்கின்றன. அவர்கள் நல்ல காரியங்களில் பங்குகொண்டு நல்லாழக்கையில் வாழ்ந்து கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். அவர்களுடைய பிள்ளைகள் படித்து அறிவாளிகளாக வாழ்ந்து வருகிறார்கள். கல்யாணம், காட்டேற்று முதலிய எல்லா விசேஷ காலங்களிலும் உறவினருக்கு மதுவைக் கொடுக்கும் பழக்கத்தை ஹரிஜனங்கள் அறவே மறந்து விட்டார்கள். கோவில் குளங்களிலோ, அய்யனுக்கு ஐந்து குடம் கள்ளென்றும், முனியாண்டிக்கு 'முட்டை முருங்கைக்காய் ஐன்று குத்தி சாராயம்' என்று படைத்து பின் குடிப்பதெல்லாம் நின்று போயிற்று. இவ்விதம் அவர்கள் கள் குடியையும் சாராயம் குடிப்பதையும் மறந்து இருக்கும் நிலைமையில் திரும்பவும் அவர்களிடத்தில் இந்தக் குடியை புதுத்த வேண்டுமென்றால் அது அரசியலுக்கு உகந்தது அல்ல. அரசியலுக்காக நாட்டு மக்களை புதை குழியில் தள்ள வேண்டுமா? அறிலில்லாமலும் பாமரர்களாகவும் இருக்க கூடியவர்களை கையாளாக வைத்துக் கொண்டு தாங்கள் இந்தப் பதவியி் விருப்பத்திற்காக கையாளப்படும் ஒரு சூழ்ச்சியே தவிர வேறு ஒன்றும்மில்லை என்று தான் நான் சொல்லுவேன். ஆகையால் இந்தத் திட்டத்தை தீவிரமாக நடத்தப்படாமல் கைவிடப்பட்டால் ஏழை மக்களை புதை குழியில் தள்ளியவர்களாவோம். இந்த வியாதிக்கு ஒரு நல்ல வைத்தியம் செய்ய நமது கனம் ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் வந்திருக்கிறார். எல்லா வியாதிகளுக்கும் இப்பொழுது பென்சிலின் என்ற ஒரு புது வித மருந்து வந்திருப்பது போல் இந்த வியாதியைத் தீர்ப்பதற்கு நமக்கு கனம் ராஜாஜி வந்திருக்கிறார். நோயாளி உயிருடன் இருக்கும்பொழுதே குழியில் புதைத்துவிட வேண்டுமென்று நினைப்பது மதியனம். சொஸ்தமாகக் கூடிய வியாதி யென்று தெரிந்தும், சொஸ்தமாக்க தக்க வைத்தியர் இருக்கிறார் என்று தெரிந்தும் பிடிவாதமாக உயிருடன் புதைக்க ஒத்துக்கொள்ளமாட்டோம். ஆகவே இதை அமுல் நடத்துவதற்கு எல்லோரும் ஒத்துழைக்கவேண்டும். அதற்கு எல்லோரும் உடமையாக இருக்க வேண்டும். அரசியல் காரியங்களுக்காக மயங்கி விடாமல் கனம் திம்மா ரெட்டி சொன்ன மாதிரி ஏழைகள் கெட்டுப் போகும்படியாக விடாமல் அவர்களுடைய நிலைமையைத் தெரிந்துகொண்டு அவர்களை நல்ல நிலைமைக்குக் கொண்டு வரவேண்டும். அரசியல் விவகாரங்களை இதில் கொண்டு வராமல் மந்திரிகளை நம்பி அவர்களுக்கு பக்க பலமாக இருந்து எந்தத் தொகுதிக்கு பிரதிநிதியாக வந்தோமோ அந்தத் தொகுதி வாக்காளர்களுக்கு நாம் கொடுத்த வாக்கை நிறைவேற்றி நம்முடைய தொகுதியில் குடி நிலவாமல் இருக்க கங்கனம் கட்டிக் கொண்டு வேலை செய்யவேண்டும். கள்ளுக்கடையை மறுபடியும் புதுத்துவது ஒருவருக்கும் உகந்தது இல்லை என்று சொல்லிக்கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன்."

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* SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the cut motion moved by the hon. Leader of the Opposition. He has fixed his demand very low, namely, that a committee of enquiry should be appointed to go into the working of the Prohibition Act and find out whether Prohibition has been a success or not. In my opinion the speeches that have been made in support of the resolution have been largely on the defensive. In my opinion it is really superfluous for a committee of enquiry to go into the obvious and Himalayan failure of the Prohibition policy. I must congratulate the hon. Lady Member, Mrs. Sundaram Ramachandran; for the forthright manner in which she attacked the weakness of the Opposition line of argument of asking for a committee of enquiry. She has charged those who want a repeal of Prohibition with a certain confusion of thought. Let me ask: ‘What is the basic import of the Prohibition policy?’ Surely it cannot be prohibition of drink as such but the evil consequences of drink, namely, drunkenness. In the face of the available statistical evidence of the increase in the number of people convicted, for having been found drunk can she maintain today that Prohibition as a method of reducing drunkenness has been a success? Has the move to do away with drunkenness been a success? If, in the face of the statistical evidence she still stands for the Prohibition policy all that I can say is that her stand is based on a prejudice rather than on intellect. She has appealed to the sentimentality of the Members of this House and of the public. She has referred in glowing terms to the women who are happy in their homes after Prohibition. She said that husbands have ceased to be wife-beaters. I submit, Sir, this particular line of approach is a sentimental approach for this reason that it forgets that the experiment of Prohibition has proved a costly failure. It has been said that the State is losing more than 16 crores of rupees. I say this is an underestimate because the revenue from excise was little over 16 crores in 1945. The cost of living has doubled since that date. If we had no Prohibition perhaps 30 crores of rupees and more could be expected annually from excise duties. Apart from this, in addition to giving up this revenue, we are also spending large sums of money in enforcing Prohibition. We keep large number of men in jail for whose board and lodging we are paying heavily. We are maintaining a large police and excise force than is necessary for the maintenance of law and order. The point I want to drive at is this. Can we afford to try this costly experiment irrespective of whether it is right or wrong on moral grounds? It is on that basis I appeal to the hearts of people who are sentimentally led away to support the Prohibition policy. If for instance the State had not been compelled to give up a large and lucrative source of revenue, would it not have been possible for the Government to spend larger sums of money on irrigation projects, and various other welfare measures? Against the sentimental picture of the alleged absence of wife-beating husbands let me pose the other sentimental picture of the lakhs of toddy tappers and their wives and children who are reduced to the level of starvation as a result of the unemployment, the four lakhs of public servants who

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are not being given an adequate wage, the N.G.Os. who, though classified as the most efficient set of men in the whole of the Indian Union, are getting only starvation rates of pay because the Members on the Treasury Benches maintain that the Government has not the wherewithal to pay them the wages they deserve and finally the inhabitants of the famine-stricken areas where irrigation schemes have not been executed for want of funds. It is these people who are paying the price for the fad of Prohibition.

" Sir, I submit that as the whole country is passing through a transitional period even if Prohibition can be justified on ethical grounds, we cannot afford to carry out this costly experiment. Apart from these grounds, I oppose the Prohibition policy very strongly and demand the immediate repeal of the Prohibition Act on other grounds also. I am opposed to any kind of regimentation and Prohibition implies regimentation. May I recall to you, Sir, the famous remark of the French philosopher Voltaire? He said, 'I disagree strongly with what you say, but I shall defend with my life your right to say it.' Translated to the Prohibition policy I say, though I strongly oppose alcoholism, I oppose vehemently the regimentation of people's life.' What is the effect of the attempt to do away with drink merely because a few people have been found drunk? Those who have been addicted to drink continue to do so. There is no doubt about it. Mrs. Ramachandran referred to her personal visits to Bombay and other States from where she has gathered the impression that wife-beating has ceased to be one of the pastimes of male addicts. Let me also quote from my personal experience as a member of a Trade Union. I have also seen a larger number of people who have ruined their health as a result of consuming french polish and other types of deleterious drinks and other essences. The hon. Member, Mr. Gajapathi Raju, rightly put his finger on the increased sale of tincture and denatured spirit and asked whether it did not go into the manufacture of illicit drinks. Sir, the Hon. the Chief Minister the other day gave utterance to a theory, namely, that men who actively propagate atheism are the people who induce piety in the people. Let me appeal to him to apply the same line of thought to the question of Prohibition. The more Congressmen have done propaganda for Prohibition, the more men have been tempted to taste the pleasures of illicit liquor. Then again, the Hon. Chief Minister appealed to the Members in connection with the Confidence Motion to search their hearts and vote according to the dictates of their conscience. May I also ask Congressmen in regard to the Prohibition policy to search their hearts and say whether they have not enthroned in their hearts pride and false prestige which blinds them to the Himalayan blunder they have committed? If they will only search their hearts as the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has done and my Friends in the K.L. Party have done, they too will realise as some hon. Members on the Treasury Benches did realise before they became Ministers that this policy has failed, and failed miserably.

" If we give up the fad of Prohibition policy we can get large sums of money for spending on welfare measures. Even if it is

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sound on ethical grounds, this is not the time to embark upon it; we cannot afford it. Against the benefits to be derived from pursuing this policy we have to pose the picture of people dying of starvation and of malnutrition. I am sure this Government is not so inefficient that it cannot find ways and means to prevent drunkenness and at the same time repeal Prohibition. No man in his senses will support drunkenness or oppose any kind of legal or administrative action that might be taken to prevent it. I will be the first man to support any action that might be taken to impose deterrent punishment against those found drunk. But we must not confuse these two matters, namely, drink and drunkenness. We are opposed to drunkenness and not drink *per se*.

"Lastly, Sir, let me refer to an article on Alcoholism in the Encyclopaedia of Social Science. It is a standard work. After examining the available statistics provided by Insurance Companies the writer arrives at the conclusion that drink is a food, that moderate drinking in middle age and heavy drinking in old age has increased the longevity of people. In the face of available statistics and expert opinion, for this Government to persist in the policy of Prohibition is a persistence in foolishness, is a persistence in blind prejudice and for what is not fundamentally in the interests of the people of this State."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the cut motion moved by the hon. Leader of the Opposition. In this connexion I would like to bring to the notice of the House one pertinent point in connexion with the speech which we have heard from the side of the K.L. Party, and that too from one of the leaders of that Party, Mr. Thimma Reddi. Sir, when we heard him speak on the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor we thought the Party was strongly opposed to this policy of Prohibition. He said that the Government should either mend this or end this. We find that he has now changed his attitude. Not only that. A most responsible Member of that party just now openly supported the cut motion on the floor of this House. Now all of a sudden the Leader of the party criticizes the stand taken by the U.D.F. to appoint a committee. I will explain presently why we have come to this decision. We want a certain measure of agreement between parties, groups and individuals even including Members on the Congress side. It is for that purpose that we want a committee to be set up to investigate the whole matter.

"If I remember well or if my information is correct, even the executive of the K.L.P. passed a resolution to the effect that a committee should go into the whole matter and investigate its working. All of a sudden the Leader of the K.L.P. changed his stand. It is highly mysterious indeed. Perhaps the mystery will be cleared within a day or two and we can know why the leader of the K.L.P. changed his stand; very soon every Member sitting in this House and the people outside will clearly know who is who and can see them in their true colours. Mr. Speaker, I am very much pained and surprised to hear the leader of the K.L.P. changing

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opinions like this. I would like to appeal to the Members of the K.L.P. to stand firm on the decision they have taken previously, and it is a just decision and is in accordance with the wishes of the people. They need not change if their leader changes; if the leader changes his opinion, it does not mean that the whole rank and file must follow him blindly. Every Member should take this into consideration. The people want the whole Act to be scrapped. Therefore the U.D.F. for arriving at a common measure of agreement with all parties came to the conclusion that the working of the Prohibition Act should be amended in such a way that the harassment of the people is ended soon. But here we have the K.L.P. supporting the Prohibition policy. The K.L.P. Leader had even ridiculed the idea of the Committee. The Government or even the Chief Minister cannot be a substitute for the Committee. The K.L.P. Leader is for keeping up implicit faith in Rajaji for various and obvious reasons. In this connexion I wish to explain the purpose of the Committee. The purpose of the committee is entirely different. The Hon. Sri C. Rajagopalachari may make the repressive measures more stringent to enforce the Prohibition policy. But that is not the purpose of the Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to investigate the whole Prohibition policy and find out how far Prohibition has worked successfully or how far it has failed and the reasons therefor. That is the main purpose of the Committee. The Hon. Sri C. Rajagopalachari may say, 'Let me try it for another year' so that the same repressive measures can continue. But the fact is, the poor people are being harassed by the police and the Prohibition staff and everybody knows it. If we go to our constituencies, we must be able to answer the people. Therefore, Sir, I would appeal to each and every hon. Member to support the cut motion moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Viswanatham. It is very simple and all shades of opinion can be represented on the Committee; this is the common measure of agreement that is possible under the present circumstances. I would therefore appeal to the Congress Party and to the Leader of the House to give an opportunity to their Members to freely vote for the cut motion if they are in favour of it. Let us know their opinions also. The Hon. Sri C. Rajagopalachari may ask for only one year. We are having this for the last 14 years and we know how it has worked. If we give him another year, it means people will have to suffer for some more time. There is no guarantee that the police will not be given more powers. Already we find in certain districts that the work of the Prohibition staff is being handed over to the police. We know how the police behave. Very recently it was brought to the notice of the Government how the police had inflicted severe and serious injuries on a girl of 14 years. Therefore, Sir, can we sitting on this side of the House, give another opportunity to the Hon. Chief Minister who is firmly wedded to the policy of Prohibition? He said, 'if the Prohibition policy fails, I will get out of the Cabinet'. That is his stand. Should we say, 'because our Rajaji may leave the Cabinet, we are not prepared to accept the failure of Prohibition'? It is not a matter of Rajaji condescending to accept the Chief Ministership. If it is not Rajaji, Mr. Subramaniam or some other gentleman can

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become the Chief Minister. (Laughter.) It is immaterial who the Chief Minister is. It is the party and not the individual, however, great he may be, that counts. I would therefore appeal to the hon. Members to support the cut motion. It is very simple. One need not go to the people to see whether Prohibition has failed or not. Even the report published by the Government will clearly indicate how Prohibition has failed; every year the number of Prohibition cases are increasing and more people are going to jail; we can know how much amount we are wasting on Prohibition especially when every Cabinet Minister is complaining of financial stringency. This affects the whole nation and if further lease of one year is given, it is nothing but betrayal of the interests of our people. With these words, I support the cut motion, Sir."

* SRI A. S. SAHAJANANDA :—"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, இப்பொழுது இந்த மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை ரத்து செய்யவேண்டுமென்றே, கமிட்டிக்கு அனுப்பவேண்டுமென்றே சொல்லுபவர்கள் ஏழை ஜனங்கள் எப்பொழுதும் ஏழைகளாகவும், அடிமைகளாகவும் இருந்து கொண்டே இருக்கவேண்டுமென்பதற்காகத் தான், அல்லது இந்த எண்ணத்தை மனதில் கொண்டுதான் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ஹரிஜனங்கள் மறுபடியும் நன்றாகக் குடிக்க ஆரம்பித்துவிட்டால் அவர்களை எமாற்றி வேலை வாங்கிக் கொள்ளலாமே என்பதற்காகத் தான் அப்படிச் சொல்லுகிறார்கள், என்று நினைக்கிறேன். முன்பெல்லாம் கிராமத்தில் குடிக்காமல் இருக்கும் வேலைக் காரனைப்பார்த்து மிராசதார்கள், 'அப்பா! நீ இளைத்துப் போகிறது. நாலு நாட்கள் கண்ணீர் சாப்பிட்டால் உன் உடம்பு நன்றாகிவிடும். இந்தா இதை எடுத்துக் கொண்டு போய் குடி,' என்று நான்கு கொடுப்பார்கள், அதனால் அவன் குடிகாரனாவான். மிராசதார்களுடைய சூழ்ச்சி என்ன வென்று தெரியாத அந்தப் பாட்டாளிகளும் குடித்து விட்டு மிராசதார்கள் தங்களை எமாற்றுகிறார்கள் என்பதைக்கூட உரைத் தெரியாமல் உருளுவான். இப்பொழுது குடியை நிறுத்தியதால் ஹரிஜனங்கள் தற்பொழுது நல்ல நிலைமையிலிருக்கிறார்கள். மனிதர்களாக அவர்கள் இப்பொழுது மனைவி மக்களுடன் வாழ்ந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களைக் கெடுக்கத் தான் மது இப்பொழுது வரவேண்டுமென்று கருதுகிறார்கள். இது மிகவும் தவறு. கமிட்டிக்கு அனுப்பவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னால், பொதுஜன அபிப்பிராயத்தை அறிந்துகொள்ளவேண்டுமென்பதும் ரொம்பத் தவறு. மதுவை இப்பொழுது குடிக்காதவர்கள் எதற்காக மற்றவர்கள் குடிக்க வேண்டுமென்பதாகப் பேசுகிறார்கள்? குடிக்கிறவர்கள் சொன்னால் அதில் அர்த்தமுண்டு. 'அவர்கள் தவிக்கிறார்கள். அதனால் கொண்டு வரவேண்டுமென்று மது குடிக்காத இவர்கள் சொல்வதின் அர்த்தம் என்னயென்பதை நீங்களே பாருங்கள். அவர்களை இவர்கள் எமாற்ற வேண்டுமென்பதற்காகத்தான் ரொம்பவும் கருணையுள்ளவர்கள் போல் பேசுகிறார்கள். இது தவறு."

यद्यदाचरति श्रेष्ठस्तत्तद्वेतेरो जनः ।

स यत्प्रमाणं कुरंते लोकस्तदनुवर्तते ॥

'யத்யத் ஆசரதி சிறேஷ்ட தத்தத் எவ இதரோஜன :

ஸ : யத்பிரமாணம் கருதே லோகஸ்தத் அனுவர்த்ததே :

என்று பகவான் கீதையிலே சொல்லியிருக்கிறார். அதாவது அதனுடைய தமிழ்க் கருத்தென்ன வென்றால், 'பெரியவர் பயின்ற படியெல்லாம் பயில்வார் பின்புள்ளோர்' என்பதாகும். அதனால் சட்டசபையில் இப்பொழுது மதுவைக் கொண்டு வரவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுகிறவர்கள் முதலில் தாங்கள் குடிக்க வேண்டும். அப்பறம் தான் மற்றவர்கள் குடிக்கட்டுமென்று பிரசாரம் செய்யவேண்டும். அப்படியின்றி நாம் குடிக்காமல், இன்று ஏழைகள் குடிக்கட்டும், ஹரிஜனங்கள் குடிக்கட்டுமென்று சொல்வது நியாயமா, தர்மமா என்று கேட்கிறேன்?

[Sri A. S. Sahajananda]

[16th July 1952]

“மதுவிலக்கு ஏற்பட்டது இன்றைக்கு அல்ல. ராஜா பனகல் காலத்திலேயே மதுவிலக்கை கொண்டுவரவேண்டுமென்ற யோசனை வந்தது. ராஜா பனகல் இருபது ஆண்டுகளில் மதுவிலக்கைக் கொண்டுவருவதாகத் தெரிவித்தார். ஸ்ரீ முத்தையா முதலியார் காலத்திலேயே வான்கள் வாங்கி அதன் மூலம் மது குடிக்கக்கூடாதென்று ஜில்லா ஜில்லா வாக்கப் பிரசாரம் செய்து வந்தார்கள். காங்கிரஸ் கட்சியினுடைய கொள்கைகளில், முக்கியமானவை தீண்டாமை ஒழிப்பு, நூல்நூற்பு, மதுவிலக்கு. இவைகளிலும் மதுவிலக்குக்கு அந்தக் கட்சியார் அதிகமான முக்கியத்துவம் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது மது திரும்ப வர வேண்டுமென்று சொல்கிறவர்கள் காங்கிரஸ் கட்சியின் மதுவிலக்குக் கொள்கை தோற்றுப் போனால் காங்கிரஸ் கட்சி தோற்றுப் போனது போலப் பிரசாரஞ் செய்யவேண்டுமென்ற எண்ணத்திலேயேதான் இப்படிப் பேசுகிறார்கள். இல்லாவிட்டால் ஏழை மக்களை வதை செய்யக்கூடிய மதுவை திரும்ப வரவேண்டுமென்று யாரும் சொல்லமாட்டார்கள்.

“சுயராஜ்யம் வந்த பிறகு கனம் ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் தலைமையில் அமைந்த மந்திரி சபையில் கனம் ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் முதலில் மது விலக்குச் சட்டத்தைக் கொண்டு வந்து முதன் முதல் சேலத்தில் அமுல் நடத்தினார்கள். அதற்கு முன்பேயே நானும், கனம் ராஜாஜி அவர்களும் கள் குடிக்கக் கூடாதென்று சேலத்திலுள்ள கிராமங்களில் ரொம்பவும் பிரசாரம் செய்திருக்கிறோம். அதற்காகவேதான் என்னைக் கூட மெது செய்யக் கலெக்டர் எழுதி யனுப்பினார். அப்பொழுது எக்ஸிசியூட்டில் மைம்ப ராயிருந்த ஸ்ரீ ஸ்ரீனிவாச ஐயங்கார் அவர்கள் எனக்காக வாதாடி எனக்கு விடுதலை வாங்கித் தந்தார்கள். அப்படி மது போகவேண்டுமென்பதற்காக நாங்கள் அந்தக் காலத்திலேயே ரொம்பவும் பிரசாரம் செய்து வந்தோம். கனம் ராஜாஜி பதவிக்கு வந்தவுடன் மது விலக்குச் சட்டத்தைக் கொண்டு வந்து நன்றாக அமுல் நடத்தினார்கள். அப்பறம் வந்தவர்கள் மகாணம் முழுவதிலும் மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தைக் கொண்டு வந்தார்களே தவிர நல்ல முறையில் அமுல் நடத்தாததால் சுயநலக்காரர்கள், கள்ளச்சாராயம் காய்ச்ச ஆரம்பித்துவிட்டார்கள். ஆனால் இப்படி ஒரு சிலர் காப்பாக்கிறார்கள், ஒரு சிலர் குடிக்கிறார்கள் என்பதற்காக இந்தச் சட்டத்தை ரத்துசெய்துவிட யோசிப்பது சரியாகாது. குடிப்பவர்களையும், குடியாதவர்களையும் கணக் கிட்டுப் பார்த்தால் நூற்றுக்கு 90 பேர்கள் குடிக்காதவர்கள்தான். பாக்ஷியுள்ள பத்து பேர்களை வேண்டுமென்றால் குடிக்கிறார்கள் என்று கணக்கிடலாம். இந்தப் பத்து பேர்களுக்காக மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தையே ரத்து செய்துவிடவேண்டுமென்று சொல்வது மிகவும் தவறாகும்.

“கள்ளச்சாராயம் காய்ச்சுவதற்கு போலீசார்கள் இப்பொழுது துணை புரிந்து வருகிறார்கள். போலீசார்களின் கண்காணிப்பு சரியாக இருந்தால் யாரும் காய்ச்ச மாட்டார்கள். மேலதிகாரிகளும் லஞ்சம் வாங்கிக் கொண்டு இதை கவனிக்காமல் இருந்து விட்டார்கள். சர்க்கார் மந்திரிகளும் அப்பொழுது சரியாக நடந்துகொள்ளவில்லை. அதனால் தான் இவ்வளவு தூரம் ஊழல் பெருகிவிட்டது. நான் இப்பொழுது என்ன சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றால் அந்த போலீசார்கள் உள்பட, மேலதிகாரிகள் உள்பட, கிராம உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் உள்பட எல்லோரும் இதற்கு உடந்தையாகத் தான் இருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த லகஜானந்தாவின் கையில் ஒரு மாதம் அதிகாரத்தைக் கொடுங்கள். நான் அதற்குள் மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை சரியான முறையில் அமுல் நடத்திக் கொடுக்கிறேன். தக்கபடி மந்திரிகள் நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக் கொண்டால் எல்லாவற்றையும் ஒரே நாளில் ஒழித்து விடலாம். மேலும் இரகசியப் போலீசார் மூலமாக லஞ்சம் வாங்கக் கூடிய மேலதிகாரிகளைக் கண்டு பிடித்து தண்டிக்கவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது இருக்கக் கூடிய போலீஸ் நிர்வாகத்தையே மாற்றியமைக்கவும் வேண்டும்.

“மேலும் குடிப்பவர்களைக் கண்டு பிடிப்பவர்களுக்கும், மது விற்பவர்களைக் கண்டு பிடித்துக் கொடுப்பவர்களுக்கும், சாராயம் காய்ச்சுவவர்களைப் பிடித்துக் கொடுப்பவர்களுக்கும், அதற்கு உடந்தையாக இருப்பவர்களைப் பிடித்துக் கொடுப்பவர்களுக்கும், இதற்கு உடந்தையாயிருக்கிற போலீஸ் அதிகாரிகளையும் மற்றவர்களையும் கண்டு பிடித்துக் கொடுப்பவர்களுக்கும்

16th July 1952]

[Sri A. S. Sahajananda]

சர்க்கார் தனித் தனியாகப் பரிசு கொடுக்குமென்று அறிவித்தால் இது உடனே அடங்கிவிடும். நம் ராஜ்யத்தைப் பிடிக்க வரும் அந்நிய அரசாங்கத்தை அடக்க முயலும் நாம் இதை அடக்குவது மிகவும் கஷ்டமில்லை.

“மதுவிலக்கு வெறும் அரசியல் விஷயம் மாதிரமல்ல. ஒழுக்கம் தரும். ஆரோக்கியத்தையும் தரும். நாம் உண்ணும் உணவு மூன்று கூறுகளாகப் பிரிகிறது. ஒரு கூறு மலம். ஒரு கூறு உடம்பு. ஒரு கூறு மனம் ஆகும். மனதில் சம்பந்தப்படும்போது உணவுப் பொருள் சத்துவ குணமுடையதானால் சாந்தமும், ஆரோக்யமும் தரும். ரஜோகுணமுடையதானால் உடலில் உஷ்ணமும், கோபதாபமுந்தரும். தமோகுணமுடையதானால் மயக்கமும் உடல் நலக்குறைவுமுண்டாகும். கள் தமோகுணமுடையதானதால் ஆரோக்கியமின்மையை உண்டாக்கும். அதனால்தான் கள் குடிக்கக் கூடாதென்று சொல்லுகிறோம். ஏழைகளின் செல்வத்தைச் சுரண்டி, அவர்களின் ஆரோக்கியத்தைக் குலைக்கக் கூடியதான இந்த மதுவிலக்கு ஒழிந்து நல்லதே. ஜனப்பிரதிநிதியாகிய நாம் குடிக்காத போது ஜனங்களைக் குடிக்கும்படி எப்படி அனுமதிக்கலாம்? கள் உணவுப் பொருளென்று கருதுவாராயின் வரி வசூல் செய்யாமல் இலவசமாக விடக்கூடுமா? வரியை உத்தேசிப்பதாயின் இந்தப் பரம் ஏழைகளுக்கு வரி விதிப்பதை நீக்கி பணக்காரர்களாகிய தாங்களே அந்த வரியை கொடுக்கலாமே? மதுபானத்தால் 16 கோடி வருமானமென்றால் மதுபான வரியைத் தள்ளவே கனம் ராஜாஜி விற்பனை வரியைக் கொண்டு வந்தார். அது இப்பொழுது அதிகப்பட்டு 67 கோடியாயிருக்கிறது. மதுவைக் கொண்டுவருவதாயின் விற்பனை வரியை விட்டுவிடப் பிரியப்படுகிறீர்களாவென்று கேட்கிறேன்? காங்கிரஸ் மேல் தப்புப் பிரசாரம் செய்யவே இந்த சூழ்ச்சி.

“மேலும் இப்பொழுது மதுவிலக்குப் போகவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுகிறவர்கள் தான் இதை ஒரு கமிட்டிக்கு அனுப்பவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். எதற்காக இதை அனுப்பவேண்டுமென்றுதான் எனக்குத் தெரியவில்லை. சாதாரணமாக ஆதிதூஷம் தொட்டே, ‘கள் விலை பகர்வோர், கள்ளினை நுகர்வோர், கள் அருந்துவோர்க்கு உடன்படுவோர், கள்ளருந்துரைப் புகழநர் நாகில் கற்பகாலம் கிடந்துதழுந்துவர்,’ என்பதாக நமது தர்மங்கள் உபதேசித்து வருகின்றன. அப்பேர்ப்பட்ட இந்த மகா பாபமான கள்ளை, மீண்டும் எப்படியாவது கொண்டுவரவேண்டுமென்பதற்காகவா கமிட்டிக்கு அனுப்பவேண்டுமென்று சொல்கிறார்கள் எனக் கேட்கிறேன்? அப்படியே இதைக் கமிட்டிக்கு அனுப்பினாலும், அதனால் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கும் உண்மையான அபிப்பிராயம் தெரியவேண்டுமானால் இதை கும்பகோணம் ஜகத்குரு சங்கராச்சாரியார் சுவாமிகளையும், வானமாமலை சுவாமிகளையும், மடாதிபதிகளையும், பாதிரிமார்களையும், முஸ்லீம் குருக்களையும் கொண்டதான ஒரு கமிட்டியை நியமித்து விசாரித்துப் பார்க்கலாம். அப்படி இவர்கள் செய்ய ஒரு நாளும் சம்மதிப்பார்கள் என்று எனக்குத் தோன்றவில்லை. அதனால்தான் கமிட்டியை நியமிப்பதாலும், ஏழை மக்களுக்கு நன்மை ஏற்படாது என்று காரணத்துக்காக நான் இந்த வெட்டுப் பிரேரேபணையை எதிர்த்து மானியத்தை ஆதரிக்கிறேன்.”

* SRI H. B. ARI GOWDER :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think there is no harm in accepting the suggestion made by the Leader of the Opposition to have a committee to go into the matter. I wish the Hon. the Chief Minister also accepts it, so that we may not have more debate on this. 6 p.m.

“I was listening to the speech of the hon. the lady Member. She has told us that, if we accept the policy of Prohibition then there is no necessity for appointing a committee to go into the question; and that if we do not agree to have Prohibition then too there is no need for a committee either. The reasoning of the hon. lady Member sounds well indeed. But I am of the view that the

[Sri H. B. Ari Gowder]

[16th July 1952]

appointment of a committee to go into the details of the whole question will serve some useful purpose, especially in view of the fact that the Hon. Minister for Prohibition has not told us clearly how exactly he is going to enforce Prohibition throughout the State effectively. The proposed committee may suggest ways and means of enforcing Prohibition more successfully than now.

"There is no question about the desirability of having Prohibition. As a matter of fact I was one of those who had been agitating for Prohibition even before the Congress introduced it for the first time in 1937. In 1924 partial Prohibition was introduced in the Nilgiris district at my instance. But soon it was found to be a failure. I was watching when Prohibition was introduced in the neighbouring districts in 1937. It was not a success. Then the whole State has been made dry since 1946. We don't find it to be a success either. The failure of Prohibition is bound to continue until and unless the neighbouring States are also induced to go dry. At present people are not only spending more than before, but they are also breaking the Prohibition laws more and more. They are being sent to jail in larger and larger numbers with the consequent increase of expenditure on them and corresponding decrease of food production in the State. I therefore suggest that the Government might carefully go into the details of their policy, taking the Opposition also into their confidence and acting upon their advice.

"It is true that our womenfolk are not for scrapping Prohibition. Recently I attended a meeting wherein the men favoured scrapping of Prohibition. The women kept quiet for a while and then one woman said in low tone 'Where is Prohibition in force? Everybody is having his drink. What more does he want?' I wish to quote another incident also. The Hon. Minister for Prohibition may find it interesting. A case was being tried by a Magistrate. The accused pleaded guilty to the charge. In the course of his reply he told the Magistrate as follows: 'Before punishing me for the offence, please punish the man that manufactured the essences. Then punish the man that sold me the essence. And above all punish the Hon. Minister for Prohibition who permitted these essences to be manufactured and sold in our State.'

"People ask, 'what is the use of continuing with this policy when we find so many loopholes for abuses?' From my experience too I feel that it is not likely to succeed to any appreciable extent. I am sorry to see that Prohibition has not succeeded in our State. But we are living in an age when experiments like this have little chance of success, even though they are intended for the good of the people.

"Anyway I submit to the Hon. the Chief Minister to be good enough to accept the harmless suggestion to refer the whole matter to a committee to go through it in detail."

SRI A. DORAISWAMI GOUNDER:—"கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, இந்தச் சபை முன்பு கொண்டுவரப்பட்டிருக்கும் மதுவிலக்கு மான்யத்தை எதிர்த்தும், வெட்டுப் பிரேரணையை ஆதரித்தும் சில வார்த்தைகள் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன்.

16th July 1952]

[Sri A. Doraiswami Gounder]

“மதுவிலக்குத் திட்டம் இப்பொழுது வெற்றிபெறவில்லை. ஒவ்வொரு மாதமும் சேலம் ஜில்லாவில் மதுவிலக்கு கேஸ்கள் 800, 900 என்று அதிகரித்துக்கொண்டே போகின்றன. சேலம் ஜில்லாவிலுள்ள எல்லா மர மரிகளும், மற்றும் விவசாயிகளும் கள்ளச் சாராயம் காய்ச்சும் தொழிலைப் பூராவும் கற்றுக்கொண்டு, சாராயம் காய்ச்சுவதற்கு வெளி ஜில்லாக்களுக்கும் சென்று வருகிறார்கள். இது இன்னும் குறைந்தபாடில்லே. மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டம் வருவதற்கு முன்னால் ஒரு பாட்டிலுக்கு ஒரு ரூபாய் கிடைத்துக்கொண்டிருந்தது என்று சொன்னால், இப்பொழுது பாட்டிலொன்றுக்கு 5 ரூபாய் கிடைக்கிறது. அந்த விலைக்கு கள்ளச் சாராயத்தை வாங்கிச் சாப்பிடுகிறார்கள்.

“மற்ற ஜில்லாக்களிலும் மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டம் வெற்றிகரமாக நடக்க வில்லையென்று தெரிகிறது. ஆகையால், இந்த மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை ரத்துசெய்துவிடவேண்டுமாய்க் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். சாதாரண விவசாயிகள் கூட, இம்மாதிரி கள்ளச் சாராயம் காய்ச்சி ஜெயிலுக்குப் போகிறார்கள். அப்படி விவசாயிகள் ஜெயிலுக்குப் போவதால், விவசாயம் ரொம்பவும் குறைந்து, உணவுப் பஞ்சம் ஏற்படுகிறது. ஆகையால், இந்த மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை எடுத்துவிடவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு என்னுடைய பேச்சை முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

SRI P. RATHINASWAMI PILLAI :—“கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, சேலம் ஜில்லாவில் 1937-ம் வருஷத்திலே, கனம் ராஜகோபாலாச்சாரியார் அவர்கள் இருந்த ஊரிலே, முதல் முதல் அந்த மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தைக் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள். இந்தக் காலத்திலே 13 கோடி ரூபாய் வருமானம் வந்துகொண்டிருந்தது. பிறகு, 1937-ம் வருஷத்திலே, மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தைக் கொண்டுவந்த காலத்தில் சேலம் டவுனில் 126,000 பேர் ஜனத்தொகை இருந்துவந்தார்கள். அந்தக் காலத்திலே 50,000 ரூபாய்க்கு கள்ளக்கடை விற்பனையை வந்தது. அதற்குப் பின்னால், மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை ரத்து செய்து, 1943-ம் வருஷத்தில் மறுபடியும் மதுவைக் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள். 1937-ம் வருஷத்தில் 50 ஆயிரம் ரூபாய்க்குப் போனது, 1943-ம் வருஷத்தில் மதுவைக் கொண்டுவந்தபோது 86 ஆயிரம் ரூபாய்க்குப் போயிற்று. அதிலிருந்து கனம் ராஜகோபாலாச்சாரியார் அவர்கள், மதுவானது குறைந்திருக்கிறதா, அதிகப்படியிருக்கிறதா என்பதைச் சிந்தனை செய்து பார்க்கவேண்டும். அதற்குப் பின்னால், 1946-ம் வருஷத்திலே மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தைக் கொண்டுவந்த காலத்திலே, 1,36,000 ரூபாய்க்கு அதே டவுனில் ஏகம் போடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. வருமானம் வந்திருக்கிறது. இரண்டு லக்ஷத்தி ஆயிரம் ஜனத்தொகை இருந்தபோது 1 லக்ஷத்தி 40 ஆயிரம் ரூபாய் வந்திருக்கிறது. இப்படி கணக்கு இருக்க, மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தைப்போட்டு அவர்கள் குடியை நிறுத்தவேண்டுமென்று சொல்வது மிக மிக வருந்தத்தக்க விஷயம்.

“கனம் ராஜகோபாலாச்சாரியார் அவர்கள் இந்த மந்திரிசபையிலே நிர்வாகம் நடத்துவதில் எவ்வளவு சாமர்த்தியம் உள்ளவர்களோ, அதே மாதிரி சேலத்திலுள்ளவர்கள் சாராயம் காய்ச்சுவதில் பெரிய நிபுணர்கள் என்று சொல்லிக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன் (Laughter). அவர்கள் வேறு ஜில்லாக்களுக்குப் போய்க் கூட கள்ளச் சாராயம் காய்ச்சிவருகிறார்கள்.

“இந்தச் சாராயம் காய்ச்சுவதில் அவர்கள் மிக மிகத் திறமை வாய்ந்தவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள். அதற்குக் காரணம் என்னவென்று கேட்டால், 1937-ம் வருஷத்தில் கனம் ராஜகோபாலாச்சாரியார் முதல் முதல் சேலம் ஜில்லாவில்தான் இந்த மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தைக் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள். அப்படி அவர்கள் முதன் முதலில் சேலம் ஜில்லாவிற்கு இந்தச் சட்டத்தைக் கொண்டுவந்ததால்தான் சேலத்திலுள்ள ஒவ்வொருவரும் கள்ளச் சாராயம் காய்ச்சுவதில் திறமை வாய்ந்தவர்களாகிவிட்டார்கள். அதுதான் காரணம்.

“கள்ளக்கடை இருந்தபொழுது அந்தக் காலத்தில் ஒவ்வொரு கிராமத்திலும் ஒரு கள்ளக்கடை இருந்தது. ஆனால், இப்பொழுது ஒவ்வொரு வீடும் ஒரு கள்ளக்கடையாக மாறிவிட்டது. ஒவ்வொரு வீட்டிலும் அப்பொழுது இரண்டு அடுப்புகள் இருந்தன. இன்றைக்கு மூன்று அடுப்புகள்

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నియోజకవర్గ లో ఇటువంటి కేసులు కొన్ని స్వప్రంగా కనుగొనబడ్డాయి. ఈ విషయాలన్నీ చూస్తే మద్యపాననిషేధంవల్ల ఎంతవరకు మనం పేద ప్రజలకు సహాయపడ గలము అనే విషయం ఊహించుకోవచ్చు. పూర్వం ఒక గ్రామంనుండి నుమారు మూడు నాలుగు వేల రూపాయల మాత్రమే కట్టు ఆదాయం జరిగేది. కాని ఈనాడు త్రాగుడు కోసం ఒక్కొక్క గ్రామంలో చాలాపు 30, 40 వేలవరకు కూడా ఖర్చవుతోంది. అడపాదడపాకూడా త్రాగినా త్రాగుబోతు పాద్యుడబ్బు తెల్లించుకోవలసివస్తోంది. ఇదివరలో వారం పదిరోజులకు ఆశడు ఖర్చుచేసేదబ్బు ఈనాడు ఒక వర్షాయం త్రాగుటకే వ్యయంచేయవలసి వస్తోంది. దొంగతనంగా సారాయి చేసేవారు డిటోయింగ్ స్టూలకు, పోలీసులకు లంచాలివ్వడంవల్ల, ఇతరమైన విన్నెస్సులు కొరడంవల్ల చాలా ఖర్చు చేస్తున్నారు. ఈ కారణాలన్నిటివల్ల త్రాగుడుకు అలవాటుపడినవానికి యీ మద్య నిషేధతాసనంవల్ల యిటువంటి ప్రయోజనంలేదని గట్టిగా చెప్పగలము. మద్యనిషేధం వల్ల రాష్ట్రంలోని స్త్రీలు చాలా సుఖపడుతున్నారని మద్యపాననిషేధపట్టుని రద్దుచే యుట స్త్రీలు సహించరని, అటువంటి వర్గలను స్త్రీలు ప్రతిఘటించారని గౌరవ సభ్యురాలు సోదరి డా॥ సైంధరం రామచంద్రకౌమారు చెప్పారు. వారి అభిప్రాయంతో అంగీకరించవలసినందుకు విచారిస్తున్నాను. మాకు తెలిపినంతమటుకు ఈ మద్య పాననిషేధపట్టంవల్ల తమకు తమకుటుంబాలకు విశేషపట్టం సంభవిస్తోందని ఇదివరకటి కన్న వారిస్థితి నానాటికి అధ్వాన్నమైపోతోందని స్త్రీలు చెపుతున్నారు. మద్య పాననిషేధపట్టం అమలులోవుంది అంటే అదినిజమా! అనివారు తిరిగి ప్రశ్నిస్తు న్నారు. మద్యపాననిషేధపట్టం అమలుజరుగుతోందా! అనివారు అడుగుతున్నారు. ఇదివరలో యే చాటుకో మాటుకో త్రాగి కొద్ది ముతాన్ని ఖర్చుచేసే తమధర్మం యీ నాడు పాద్యుమైతాళను లంచాలుగా రివ్వవలసివస్తోందని యింట్లోవున్న వస్తువు లన్నీ కూడా యీ లంచాలకేపోతున్నాయని వారుచెపుతున్నారు. ప్రజలు మద్యపాన నిషేధం విఫలమైపోవడం యేరోజుకారోజు కళ్ళారాచూస్తున్నారు. ఈ తాసనానికి ప్రజాదరణలేదని ప్రజాభివ్రాతానికి యిది విరుద్ధంగావున్నదని ప్రభుత్వం యంతత్వరగా గుర్తిస్తే అంతమవుతుంది. మద్యపాననిషేధంవల్ల ప్రభుత్వానికి ఆదాయంలో టువస్తోంది కాని త్రాగుడుకు అలవాటుపడ్డవారికి దీనివల్ల యిటువంటి లాభంకలుగుటలేదు.

“మద్యపాననిషేధం విఫలమైపోయిందని కె.ఎల్.సి. నాయకుడు నివ్వారెడ్డిగారికి తెలుసు. ఆయన, ఆ పార్టీవారు అనేక పర్యాయములు రహా విషయమై ప్రకటనలు చేసియున్నారు. ఆయినప్పటికి యీ ప్రతిపాదనపై ఆయన మాట్లాడుతూ మద్య పాననిషేధంయొక్క జయోజనయాలనుగురించి పర్యాయోచనచేయటానికి ఒక ప్రత్యేక కమిటీ వేయవలసిన అవసరంలేదని వాదించారు, వారిఉపన్యాసం అంతా విన్న మీదట వారి వాదం ‘వియ్యోమీద అభిమానం, చుట్టూ మీద అభిమానం’ అన్నట్లుగావుంది. మద్యపాననిషేధం జయ్యపడంగా కొనసాగటంలేదని, దానికి ప్రజలసహకారంలేదని, నిర్వహణలోప భూయిష్టంగా ఉన్నదని వారికి తెలుసు. ఆయినా 4 రాజగోపాలాచారిగారి అభిప్రాయానికి విరుద్ధంగా మాట్లాడడమంటే వారికిభయం. తాతగారికి విమిలగ్రహం వస్తుందో అని, ఉన్నతపదవి అందువల్ల పాంధలేకపోకేలేమో అని వారికిభయం. వారి ఉపన్యాసంఅంతా చూస్తే ఈరెండుతైరుద్యాలు మిళితమైయున్నట్లు కనిపిస్తోంది. వియ్యంపై అభిమానంవుంటే చుట్టూన్న వద్దనాలి. చుట్టూపై అభిమానముంటే వియ్యం ఖర్చవుతుందని వాదపడకూడదు. రెండూకావాలంటే అది సరికడని విధానం.

“మంత్రివర్గంవారు మద్యపాననిషేధాన్ని సమర్థిస్తూ మద్యపానంవల్ల పేద వాళ్లు మరి పేదరైపోతున్నారని, వారిలో వుండే జలహీనతను, వ్యవసాన్ని ఆ సరా చూసుకొని వారివద్దనుంచి డబ్బు వస్తులు చేయడం మంచిదికాదని ప్రభుత్వవేం

16th July 1952]

[Sri P. S. Ramachandra Rao]

వారు వాదిస్తున్నారు. 14 రాజగోపాలాచారిగారికి పేదలపై పన్ను విధింపడం యొక్క ముండదని అంటే ఎలా సమర్థమో తెలియటలేదు. ఆయన ఆధ్వర్యం క్రింద 1937-39 వ సంవత్సరాల మధ్య పుగాకుపై పన్ను విధింపబడింది. పుగాకు హుచ్చుగా పేదవాళ్లు త్రీలు పురుషులు చుట్టలరుతుంటే ఉపయోగపారు. ఒక కాని ఖరీదుచేసే పొగాకు పైన ఇంకొక కాని పన్ను విధింపబడింది. ఈ నాడు చుట్ట పొగాకు మీద రెండువందల రూపాయల పన్ను వుంది. రోజుకు నాలుగు చుట్టలు కాల్చేవారు నాలుగు కానులు అనగా ఒక ఆణా ప్రతి రోజూ పన్ను చెల్లిస్తున్నారన్నమాట. ఈ పన్నును మొట్ట మొదట రాజగోపాలాచారిగారు మనరాష్ట్రంలో ప్రవేశపెట్టారు. తరువాత కేంద్ర ప్రభుత్వం యీ పన్నును తనవరం చేసుకుంది. ఈనాడు కోట్లకొలది రూపాయలు ఆంధ్రదేశం నుంచి కేంద్రప్రభుత్వం పుగాకుపన్ను రూతుంటే తరలించుకుపోతోంది. పేదలమీద అంత ప్రేమ కనుక పున్నట్లయితే మద్యంమీద పన్ను వెయ్యకండి. ఎవరితాడి వారు గీసుకొనే న్యేచ్చ కల్పించండి. ఆహారకారకపున్న యీ రోజులలో యే తిషికల్లా త్రాగి పేదవాళ్లు పొట్టు నింపుకొంటారు. అంతేనే కాని నిరుపయోగమైన సంస్కరణను అమలుపరచే సందర్భంలో 20 కోట్ల రూపాయలవరకు ఆదాయాన్ని కోల్పోవడం మంచిదికాదు. పేదవాళ్లు స్థితిని చాగుపరచవలసినట్లు 'మొసలి కన్నీళ్లు కార్పడం' వల్ల ఫలితం సూన్యం. కాంగ్రెస్ వారు హరిజనోద్ధరణకు చాలా కృషిపట్టుతున్నామని చెబుతారు. కాని గత ఆయిదు సంవత్సరములలో ఎంతమంది హరిజనులకు గృహ నిర్మాణానికి స్థలములు ఇచ్చినారని అడుగుచున్నాను. గత ఆయిదేండ్ల కాలంలోను మనము ఎవ్వో కోట్ల రూపాయల ఆదాయాన్ని కోల్పోయాము. ఆ సొమ్మతో మన రాష్ట్రములోని హరిజన గూడెముల నన్నిటిని ఈసరికి చక్కటిస్థితిలో ఉంచగలిగేవారమని మనవిచేస్తున్నాను.

“ఇక మద్యపానీషిధ విధానాన్ని అమలుచేసే సందర్భంలోగల కొన్ని లోటుపాట్లను గురించి మనవిచేస్తాను. ఈ ప్రభుత్వోద్యోగులు పేదవారు త్రాగితే అట్టివారిని అనేక విధాల పొంపిస్తున్నారు. కాని రోటరీ క్లబ్బులు మొదలైనవాటిలో త్రాగేవారిని వదలి వేస్తున్నారు. ధనవంతులను శిక్షించడానికి ప్రభుత్వోద్యోగులు భయపడుతున్నారు. మద్యపాననిషిధ శాసనాన్ని అమలుజరుపడంలో ఇటువంటి పక్షపాత బుద్ధి అధికారులు చూపడంవల్లకూడా ప్రజలలో ఈ సంస్కరణకుట్ట విముఖతపెక్కింది అని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను. ఉదాహరణగా ఒక విషయం మనవిచేస్తాను. నాబోటివాడు త్రాగినట్లయితే పట్టుకోడానికి ఏ సబ్ ఇన్ స్పెక్టర్ కు దమ్ములుండవు. కాని పేదవాళ్లు ఏ కోడ్డిగా త్రాగినా వాళ్లను పోలీసువారు అనేకవిధాల బాధిస్తూ లంచాలు గుంజుతున్నారు. కలిగినవాళ్లకు, లేనివాళ్లకు మధ్య ఇంతతేడాచూపడం సబబుకాదు. మదరాసునగరం వంటి పెద్ద పట్టణంలో ఉన్న అనేకమైన పెద్దపెద్ద హోటళ్లలోను, క్లబ్బులలోను నిత్యం మద్యపానం జరుగుతున్నది. కాని ఇక్కడ ఉన్న పోలీసు కమీషనరు మొదలైన గొప్ప అధికారులు ఎంతమంది భాగ్యవంతులను మద్యపానం చేసినందుకు శిక్షించినారని అడుగుచున్నాను. ఇక మద్యపాననిషిధ శాసనక్రింద శిక్షించబడేవారు అమాయకులైన తూలినాలిచేసుకొనే పేదప్రజలేనని మనవిచేస్తున్నాను. రోజుసమానం కప్పించి పనిచేసి సాయంత్రం శ్రమతీర్చుకోటానికిగాను పగలంతా పనిచేసినందువల్ల కలిగిన బడలికను తీర్చుకొనుటకు కొడ్డిగా మద్యాన్ని తీసుకొంటే అటువంటి వానిని నిర్బంధించడం అన్యాయమని నా అభిప్రాయం.

“ప్రస్తుత క్లిష్టపరిస్థితులలో మద్యపాననిషిధాన్ని అమలుచేయడం మంచిదికాదని నా అభిప్రాయం. మన రాష్ట్రంలో హరిజనోద్ధరణకు ఎంతో ఖర్చుచేయవలసియున్నది. మద్యపానమే లేకపోయినట్లయితే హరిజనులకు మనము ఇంకెవ్వో విధాల సహాయము

చేయగలిగిందేవారం. ఈనాడు హరిజనులను అన్నిటికన్నా హెచ్చుగా భావిస్తున్నది గృహసమస్య. ఈనాడు పల్లెలలోని హరిజనగూడెంలు ఎంత అభ్యాసనీధిలీలో ఉన్నాయో అందరకు తెలిసినటువంటి విషయమే. ఈ పేదవారికి ఇంట్లు కట్టుకోడానికి స్థలములను ఇవ్వవలసియున్నది. బహుశః ఉచితముగా స్థలములను ఇవ్వలేకపోయినా కొంత స్థలాన్ని acquire చేసి వారికి సరసమైన ధరలకు ఇవ్వవలసియున్నది. హరిజనులకు ఒక్కొక్క కుటుంబానికి 500 రూపాయలు ఇచ్చినట్లుంటే వారు ఇళ్లు కట్టుకుంటారు ఇటువంటివిధంగా ఎంతమందికి ఈ ప్రభుత్వంవారుగాని, ఇంతకుముందు ఉన్న కాంగ్రెసు ప్రభుత్వంవారుగాని స్థలం, ధనం సహాయంచేసినారని అడుగుతున్నాను. ఇటువంటి సందర్భాలు చాలా తక్కువగా కనపిస్తాయి. కాని భాగ్యవంతులు ఇంట్లు కట్టుకోటానికి ప్రభుత్వం కోట్లాది డబ్బు అప్పుగా మంజూరుచేస్తోంది. ఉదాహరణగా ఈ మహానగరంలో House Building Co-operative Society లు ఎటువంటివారికి గృహాలు కడుతున్నాయో చూడండి. ఈ సంస్థల ఆధ్వర్యాన్ని నిర్మించబడి గృహాలలో చాలాభాగము, ముప్పై వేలు, నలభైవేలు చొప్పున ఒక్కొక్కటి ఖరీదు చేస్తాయి. ఇంత హెచ్చు మొత్తాలిచ్చి భాగ్యవంతులకు గృహాలు కట్టించదలచిన ప్రభుత్వాలు పేదవారికి గృహవసతి విషయంలో సహాయపడడంలేదు. అధనం హరిజనులకు ఇండ్లస్థలములకుగాను ఖామిని acquire చేయడంలోకూడా విండ్రతరచి జాప్యం చేస్తున్నారు. హరిజనోద్ధరణకు Harijan Welfare Department అని ఒక ప్రత్యేక శాఖను ఏర్పాటుచేసారు. కాని ఈ శాఖ హరిజనులకు అనుకూలసం సహాయం చేయలేకపోతోంది. హరిజనులస్థితిని బాగుపరచాలంటే ప్రస్తుత పరిస్థితులలో మధ్యపాననిషేధం తొలగించాలి. ముందు హరిజనులకు ఆత్మవసరమైన గృహ స్థలాలు ఇవ్వండి. ఇంట్లు కట్టుకోటానికి దీర్ఘకాల వాయిదాలలో ఆపున చెల్లించే పద్ధతిని ఆపులివ్వండి. వారికి వైద్య, విద్యా సౌఖ్యములను కలుగజేయండి. అస్థిస్థులను తొలగించండి. హరిజనులలో నిరక్షరాస్యులైకుండా చేయండి. అనాడు వారు ఇతర సమర్థులవలెనే అన్ని రంగాలలోను ముందడుగువేస్తారు. మధ్య పానం వారంతటవారే మానివేస్తారు. ఈ విధంగా చేయక ప్రభుత్వ ఆదాయాన్ని నిరుపయోగమైన ఒక శాసనాన్ని అమలుచేయడానికి వదలుకోవడంవల్ల సంఘంలో వెనుకబడివున్న వారి స్థాయిని పెంచుట అసాధ్యమని ప్రభుత్వంవారు గుర్తించగోరారు.

“అంతేకాకుండా మధ్యపాననికీదం ఆమలుజరిపే సందర్భంలో భాగ్యవంతులను శక్తింహత వదలివేయడం మంచిదికాదు. ఈనాడు రోటరీక్లబ్బు మొదలైనటువంటి వాటిలో వివిధంగా మధ్యపానంచేస్తున్నారో గమనించాలి. ఈవిధంగా కలిగినవారికి స్వేచ్ఛను కల్పిస్తూ వేదవారిపై ఈ శాసనాన్ని గట్టిగా ఆమలుచేయడం కష్టం. అంతేకాకుండా అనేకమంది ఉద్యోగులకుకూడా మధ్యపానానికి అనుమతిస్తున్నారని తెలుస్తోంది. ఇటువంటి సందర్భంలో వేదవారిని త్రాగినందుకు శక్తింహతమనేది, ‘తనకంటిలోని దూలాన్ని చూడకుండా ఎదుటివాని కంటిలోని నలుసును కనుగొనినట్లు’ ఉంటుందని మనవిచేస్తున్నాను. వేదవారిపట్ల, భాగ్యవంతులపట్ల సమాన భావంతోనే వి శాసనాన్ని ఆయినా ఆమలుజరపాలి. ముఖ్యంగా ప్రతిపక్షనాయకులు మధ్యపాన నికీద శాసనం వి విధంగా పనిచేస్తోందో పరిశీలించేయించే ఉద్దేశ్యంతోనే ఒక కమిటీని వేయవలసినదని కోరారు. వారి ప్రతిపాదనను అంగీకరించకపోవుటకు ఎటు వంటి కారణము లేదు. కనుక నేను ఈ కోత ప్రతిపాదనకు బలపరుస్తున్నాను.”

* SRI S. SOMAYAJULU :—“கனம் உதவி சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, கனம் மதுவிலக்கு மந்திரி அவர்கள் கொண்டுவந்த மானியத்தை ஆதரித்துப் பேசுகிறேன். சாதாரணமாக இரண்டு விஷயங்கள் நமக்கு முன்னால் இருக்கின்றன. ஒன்று கமிட்டிக்குப் போகவேண்டுமென்று கனம்

[Sri S. Somayajulu]

[16th July 1952]

விசுவனாதம் அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார். கிருஷிக் லோக் கட்சித் தலைவர் கனம் திம்மா ரெட்டி அவர்கள் கமிட்டிக்கு இது போக வேண்டுமா நாம் எல்லோரும் மக்களின் பிரதிநிதிகள் இல்லையா, ஜனங்கள் படக்கூடிய கஷ்டத்தை எடுத்துச் சொல்வதற்கு நாம் இங்கில்லையா? என்று ஸ்ரீமான் திம்மா ரெட்டி அவர்கள் அழகாக அவருடைய கட்சியை எடுத்துச் சொன்னார். கமிட்டி எதற்கு என்று எனக்கும் புரியவில்லை. சாதாரணமாக எதுவுமே தொகுதியில் நான் ஒவ்வொரு கிராமத்திற்கும் சென்றிருக்கிறேன். வீட்டுக்கு வீடு சென்றிருக்கிறேன். வீட்டுக்கு வீடு சென்று காங்கிரஸின் கொள்கையைச் சொல்லி வோட்டுப்போட வேண்டும் என்று கேட்டோம். கள்ளுக்கடையை ஒழிக்க வேண்டும் என்று சொல்லி அந்தத் திட்டத்தை அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவரவேண்டுமென்று காங்கிரஸ் கட்சியினுடைய கொள்கையை சொல்லி வந்தபோது 70 லட்சம் பேர்கள் நமக்கு வோட்டுப்போட்டு நமக்கு மதுவிலக்கு வேண்டுமென்று தீர்மானமாக சொல்லிவந்தார்கள். நிலைமை இவ்விதம் இருக்கும்போது ஸ்ரீமான் டி. விசுவனாதம் அவர்கள் என்ன காரணத்தைக் கொண்டோ பொது ஜனங்களுடைய கமிட்டிக்கு விட வேண்டுமென்று சொல்வது புரியாத விஷயமாக இருக்கிறது. ஸ்ரீமான் டி. விசுவனாதம் அவர்கள் புரிந்து கொண்டு பேசுகிறார்களா இல்லையா என்பதே புரியவில்லை.

“இரண்டாவதாக மதுவிலக்கானது செத்துப் போய்விட்டது, எங்கு பார்த்தாலும் குடிசைத் தொழில் மாதிரி இது நடந்துகொண்டிருக்கிறது என்று பேசுகிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு குடிசைத் தொழில் என்னவென்பது நன்கு தெரியும். இதை எவ்விதம் குடிசைத் தொழிலாக நடத்துகிறார்கள் என்பதை எனக்கு முன் பேசிய கனம் ரெத்தினம் பிள்ளை அவர்கள் பேசும்போது சைக்கிள் ப்யூக்களில் சாராயத்தை நிரப்பி நாயின் கழுத்தில் அதைக் கட்டி அனுப்பிவிடுகிறார்கள் என்று சொன்னார். கள்ளுக்கடை கண்டிராக்கர்கள் அவர்களுடைய பழக்க வழக்கத்தையும் அனுபவத்தையும் இப்பொழுது எடுத்துச் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். சாதாரணமாக தப்பு செய்கின்றவர்களை சுலபமாக திருத்தம் செய்து விடலாம். அனுபவம் அடைந்து இதைத் தொழிலாக இருக்கிறவர்களை திருத்த முடியாது. அவர்களிடமிருந்து ஜனங்களை பாதுகாப்பு செய்வதற்கு சட்டம் இருக்கிறது. சட்டம் இருந்தால் அதை வைத்துக்கொண்டு கிராமங்களிலுள்ள பொது ஜனங்களை பாதுகாப்பதற்கு உபயோகப்படும். அதை விட்டு விட்டு நீட்டர்கள் தப்பு பண்ணுகிறார்கள், சட்டத்திற்கு விரோதமாக காரியங்களைச் செய்கிறார்கள், அதனால் சட்டத்தை எடுத்து விடவேண்டும் என்று சொல்வது நியாயமா! நேர்மையா? சிந்தனா சக்திக்கு தக்கதா? 70 லட்சம் பேர்களுடைய வோட்டுப் பெற்று இந்த தீர்மானத்தை கொண்டு வந்ததன் பிறகு அதை மறுபடியும் கீழ் சபையும், மேல் சபையும் அடங்கிய ஒரு கமிட்டிக்குப் போகவேண்டும் என்று சொல்வது நேர்மைக்குப் பொருந்தாது. அது ஒத்துக்கொள்ளக்கூடிய விஷயமல்ல. இன்றைக்கு இருக்கும் நிலைமையில் இந்த மதுவிலக்கு அவசியம் வேண்டும் என்பதைத் தெரியமான சிந்தனையுடனும் திறமை புத்தியுடனும் யோசித்துப் பார்க்கவேண்டும். மதுவிலக்கை ஒழிக்க வேண்டுமென்று சொல்வது நேர்மையல்ல. தேச ஜனநாயகத்திற்கு ஒத்ததல்ல. ஜனநாயகம் தாராளமாக நடைபெறவேண்டும் என்று ஆசைப்படுகிறேன். அதைத்தான் நான் திரும்பச் சொல்லுகிறேன்.

“கள்ளுக் கடையை ஒழித்ததால் பெண்கள் கைகளில் கை வளை யல்கள் குலுங்க நல்ல அந்தஸ்துள்ள வாழ்க்கையிலிருப்பதுகள் குடி வாழ்க்கையை மறந்து, சாராயத்தை மறந்து, ஈனக்குரலும் சோக் குரலும் போய், தங்களுடைய வாழ்க்கையை நல்ல முறையில் அனுபவித்து வருகிறார்கள். இவ்விதம் வாழ்க்கையை நடத்துகிறவர்களிடம் மறுபடியும் கள்ளையும் சாராயத்தையும் புழுத்தவேண்டுமென்று சொல்வது எவ்வளவு புத்திசாலித்தனமாகும் என்பதை எதிர்க்கட்சி அங்கத்தினர்கள் சிந்தித்துப் பார்க்கவேண்டும். சாதாரணமாக நாம் பெண்களிடம் வோட்டுக் கேட்போது என்ன சொல்லி வந்தோம்? அவர்கள் நம் ஜனநாயக தேசத்தில் 51 சத விதம் இருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த 51 சத விதம் பெண்கள் இந்த மது விலக்கு வேண்டுமென்று சொல்லும் போது இதை என் எடுத்துவிடவேண்டும். கள்ளத்தனமாக காய்ச்ச

16th July 1952]

[Sri S. Somayajulu]

கிறார்கள் என்றும் திருட்டுத்தனமாக கள் இறக்குகிறார்கள் அதனால் மது விலக்கை எடுத்துவிடவேண்டும் என்றும் சொல்வது நேர்மைக்கும் சிந்தனை சக்திக்கும் உகந்ததா என்று ஆராய வேண்டிய விஷயம். இதை எதிர் கட்சி அங்கத்தினர்கள் மீண்டும் சிந்திக்கவேண்டும்.

“இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் நிலைமையில் இது நன்றாக நடத்தப்படுகிறதா? என்பதைப் பார்க்கவேண்டும். அப்படிப் பார்க்கும்பொழுது ஒரு கமிட்டிக்கு அனுப்பவேண்டுமென்று கனம் விசுவனாதம் அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார். கனம் ராஜாஜியின் ராஜ்யப் பொறுப்பில் இன்னும் ஒரு வருஷத்திற்கு விட்டுப் பார்த்துவிட்டு பிறகு என்ன நடக்கிறது, எந்த நிலைமையில் இது இருக்கிறது என்று பார்ப்பது நல்லது என்று கனம் திம்மா ரெட்டி அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார். ரஸ்கின் சொல்லுகிறார் ‘There is a hole in the bucket.’ அதைப்போல் எங்கு கொள்கிறது இருக்கிறதோ அதைக் கண்டுபிடிக்கவேண்டும். அதை கவனிக்காமல் பொறுக்குக் கமிட்டிக்கு விடவேண்டுமென்று சொல்வது நேர்மைக்கும் சிந்தனை சக்திக்கும் உகந்தது அல்ல. அதை ஒருவரும் அங்கீகரிக்கக்கூடாது. ஒவ்வொருவரும் இந்த மான்யத்திற்கு சாதகமாக வோட்டுப் போட வேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“இன்றைக்கு கொலைக் குற்றம் குறைந்திருக்கிறது. களவு குறைந்திருக்கிறது. ஜனங்களுடைய வாழ்க்கை ஒங்கி இருக்கிறது. நமது பண்டைய கலாச்சாரம் பாதுகாக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அந்த அமைப்பில்தான் இதைப் பார்க்கவேண்டும். எங்கேயோ சில தப்புகள் நடக்கின்றன. ஒரு பர்சென்டு, இரண்டு பர்சென்டு நடக்கக்கூடிய தப்புகளை வைத்துக் கொண்டு பார்ப்பது சரியல்ல. இருக்கும் தப்புகளை நிவர்த்திக்கப் பார்க்க வேண்டும். இந்த விஷயத்தை ஆராய்ந்து அறிந்து யோசித்துப் பார்க்க வேண்டும். எதிர் கட்சியிலிருக்கும் அங்கத்தினர்கள் இப்பொழுது நடக்கப் படும புள்ளிவிவர கணக்குகளைப் பார்த்தால், கொலைகள் நடப்பதைப் பார்த்தால், களவுகள் நடப்பதைப் பார்த்தால், grievous case களைப் பார்த்தால் இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் நிலைமையைப் புரிந்துகொள்ளலாம். கனம் விஜயநகரம் ராஜா அவர்கள் இந்த கேஸ்களில் 85 ஆயிரம் பேர்கள் ஈடுபட்டிருப்பதாக புள்ளி விவரம் கூறினார். இந்த 85 ஆயிரம் பேர்கள் ஜனத்தொகையில் எத்தனை பர்சென்டு என்பதை அவர் கவனிக்கவேண்டும். தப்புப் பண்ணுகின்றவர்கள் எப்பொழுதும் தப்புப் பண்ணிக் கொண்டேதானிருப்பார்கள். இதை வைத்துக்கொண்டு அனைவரும் தப்புப் பண்ணுகிறார்கள் என்று சொல்வது நேர்மையான விவகாரம் இல்லை என்பதை நீங்கள் நிச்சயமாக தெரிந்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும்.

“மற்றும் ஒரு விஷயத்தை குறிப்பிட விரும்புகிறேன். கிட்டத்தட்ட 32½ கோடி காலன் கள்ளானது இதுவரையில் இறக்கப்பட்டது. அதுனுடைய விலை காலன் ஒன்றுக்கு ரூ. 1½ என்றால் 45 கோடி ரூபாயாகிறது. அதாவது இதை தயாரிக்க கிட்டத்தட்ட 10 கோடி ரூபாயாகிறது. அதாவது 45-ம் 10-ம் 55 கோடி ரூபாய். ஒபியம், அபின் போன்ற இறக்குமதி சரக்குகளுக்கு கணக்கு பார்த்தால் கிட்டத்தட்ட 10 கோடி ரூபாயாகிறது. ஆக மொத்தம் 65 கோடி ரூபாய் வரைக்கும் செலவாகிறது. இந்த 65 கோடி ரூபாயும் ஜனங்களிடமிருந்து செலவாகிறது. சர்க்கார் வருமானம் இதில் ரூ. 16 கோடி. இந்த ரூபாயை செலவழிக்க கிட்டத்தட்ட ஒவ்வொரு குடும்பமும் ரூ. 60-லிருந்து 100 வரை செலவழிக்கவேண்டும். இதைப்பற்றி சிந்தனை செய்தார்களா? இன்னும் கிரிமினல் கேஸ், கொலை கேஸ் முதலிய கேஸ்களுக்கு வேறு செலவழிக்கப்படுகின்றன. இதில் பெண்களுடைய ஈனக்குரல், சோகக் குரல் வேறு இருக்கிறது. இவைகளை யோசித்துத்தான் கனம் ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் 1937-ம் வருஷம் துணிச்சலாக இதைக் கொண்டுவந்தார். சேலத்தில் எவ்வளவோ பெரிய குடிகாரர்கள்—கனம் ரெத்தினம் பிள்ளை அவர்கள் சொன்னார், ஒரு லட்சத்திலிருந்து இரண்டு லட்சத்திற்கு வந்திருக்கிறது என்று—இருக்கிறார்கள். கனம் ரெத்தினம் பிள்ளையும், ராமசாமி கவுண்டரும் சொன்னது வாஸ்தவம்தான். அவர்கள் இந்தக் கள்ளக்கடையால் எத்தனையோ லாபம் அடைந்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்பது எனக்குத் தெரியும். அதனால்தான் அவர்கள் மனித வாழ்க்

[Sri S. Somayajulu]

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கையை குலைத்து மதுவை மறுபடியும் கொண்டுவரவேண்டுமென்று நினைக்கிறார்கள். சேலத்திலுள்ளவர்கள் கனம் ரெத்தினம் பிள்ளை சொன்ன மாதிரி ரொம்பவும் புத்திசாலித்தனம் உள்ளவர்கள் என்று தெரிந்துதான் சேலத்தில் தான் தப்பு செய்வார்கள் என்று தெரிந்து இதை முதல் முதலில் அங்கு கொண்டுவந்தார். 16 கோடி ரூபாயை இழந்தாலும் பரவாயில்லை என்பதற்காகத்தான் ராஜாஜி இதைக் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள். ஆகையால் இந்த மான்யத்தை ஆதரித்து ஜனங்களுடைய வாழ்க்கையை உயர்த்துவதற்கும், பெண்களுடைய ஈனக்குரலும், சோகக் குரலும் பல குடும்பங்களில் கேட்காமலிருக்கும்பொருட்டும் கொண்டுவரப்பட்டது. கனம் சகஜாநத்தம் சொன்னமாதிரி ஜனங்கள் நல் வாழ்க்கையை நடத்துவதற்கும் நல்ல சமுதாயத்திலேயேயுடையதற்கும் இதைக் கொண்டுவரப்பட்டது. நாடு நல்ல நிலைமையில் வளர்ந்துகொண்டிருக்கும்போது இதை மறுபடியும் கொண்டுவந்தால் என்ன நேரிடும் என்பதை சிந்தனைசெய்து பார்க்கவேண்டும். இது நல்ல முறையில் நடைபெறுவதற்கு வேண்டிய காரியங்களைச் செய்யவேண்டும். ஆகவே இந்த மான்யத்தை நான் ஆதரித்து என்னுடைய பிரசங்கத்தை இத்துடன் முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

6-15
p.m.

* SRI N. V. RAMA RAO :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, Prohibition is a thorough failure. Illicit distillation has become a paying cottage industry. The ex-tappers are undergoing enormous suffering on account of unemployment. Licences should be issued to them liberally for tapping sweet-toddy. Prohibition has failed and people seem to have developed a psychology of disobedience to the laws of the State. I strongly feel that the Government are not able to enforce it effectively. The drink evil cannot be abolished by legislation. America and other countries tried it and failed. I request Rajaji to look into the Neogy Committee's warning on Prohibition which says that Prohibition was running against the current of human nature. I say the object of enforcing Prohibition by law has not been achieved; on the other hand, it has resulted in widespread infringements of laws, and in the corruption and demoralization of Government officials. Many people have wrecked their health by consuming injurious substitutes. Though Prohibition was introduced with pious and laudable intentions, it deserves scrapping now. This not only my opinion; many of Rajaji's colleagues in the Cabinet share this view. The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Viswanatham read some quotations from the speech of the Hon. Mr. Ranga Reddi when he was not a Minister and from the speeches of Mr. Gopala Reddi when he was a Minister. He also quoted from the speeches of Mr. Koti Reddi. From all these, we now find that they have not expressed their personal views to Rajaji perhaps for various reasons.”

SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—“ I was never against Prohibition, Sir.”

SRI N. V. RAMA RAO :—“ I am only quoting from Mr. Viswanatham's speech, Sir.”

Sri K. Koti Reddi stood up to speak.

6-30
p.m.

MR. SPEAKER :—“ As soon as the hon. Member Sri Rama Rao finishes his speech, I shall give an opportunity to Mr. Koti Reddi to make a personal explanation.”

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* SRI N. V. RAMA RAO :—“ Many of the present M.L.As. including those of the Congress Party and 90 per cent of the public of this State do not want to continue Prohibition. I think Rajaji also knows that. He should not threaten his partymen and his supporters saying that he would resign if Prohibition is to be scrapped. Speaking in the Legislative Council on the 12th instant Rajaji said that it would not be sane to tax the poor drunkards for the sake of the revenue in order to meet the increased State expenditure. Rajaji should know that all the drunkards are not poor. Among the upper classes and the rich people the habit of drink has been increased to a great extent since the introduction of Prohibition. Among all classes of people, in almost every village, town and city in the State, the habit of drinking has increased and not decreased. Though we are losing a revenue of Rs. 17 or Rs. 18 crores with a good intention, even the habitual drunkards have not been benefited; they are spending more and more to get unauthorized and injurious substitutes and they are spoiling their health. Much more money is being wasted by them in giving bribes to the corrupt Government servants who are entrusted with the working of Prohibition. The result is only that we are losing revenue to the tune of several crores, without achieving our pious object. One or two District Prohibition Officers and their subordinates with whom I discussed this question of Prohibition expressed the view that Prohibition was a thorough failure; they also said that one or two sincere and honest officers could not check corruption amongst the Prohibition staff, about 99 per cent of whom are corrupt. At one time I had as much faith as Rajaji and the Hon. Minister for Prohibition have, in Prohibition. During the Satyagraha campaign run by Mahatmaji, I picketed toddy and liquor shops and received lathi charges; I gave lectures on the evils of drink and also on the evils of British Rule and was imprisoned several times. I will be more happy than Rajaji and the other Ministers if this evil habit of drink disappears completely, even though we lose several crores of rupees. But experience shows that it is impossible. If by any miracle Rajaji proves that Prohibition is a success, everybody will welcome it; but I do firmly believe that it is impossible even for Rajaji to prove that Prohibition is a success. He cannot make it a success. Rajaji may be thinking that he is the person who first introduced Prohibition in India, and therefore he cannot himself be a party to scrapping it. A great and bold man like Rajaji should not stand on such false prestige. A bold and great Rajaji alone should get the credit of abolishing Prohibition suddenly on one fine day as he did in regard to the food control. His food decontrol policy has the wholehearted approval of 90 per cent of the entire population of this State. I therefore request Rajaji to scrap Prohibition which is a thorough failure. By scrapping Prohibition, the present deficit Budget will be converted into a surplus Budget. If the revenue which the State will get as a result of the abolition of this unsuccessful Prohibition is spent in each district on more of minor irrigation projects, more of rural hospitals and rural roads and more of house-sites for Harijans and other poor people, then I am quite sure the public all over the State will praise Rajaji and his Government. I therefore once again request Rajaji to scrap

[Sri N. V. Rama Rao]

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this Prohibition; or if he is not going to scrap this Prohibition, then I would request him to accept the Hon. Leader of the Opposition's suggestion to appoint an expert committee to devise ways and means for coming to a decision on the question whether to continue this Prohibition or to end it."

* SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"On a matter of personal explanation, Sir. I am sorry that my name has been brought in as being one of those who are against Prohibition. As a matter of fact, there is no soul who is more keen on Prohibition than myself. What I have said is that if the authorities are not very keen on enforcing Prohibition and if they do not have belief in enforcing Prohibition, it is much better to scrap it. But I do believe, Sir, that it is quite possible; and I am absolutely confident that Prohibition can be enforced. I only request the Government to see that it is enforced to the utmost extent; it is possible to do so. I also think it is quite possible to enforce it 99 per cent—that is what I believe."

* JANAB K. M. SEETHI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Demand and strenuously oppose the cut motion moved by my hon. friend Mr. T. Viswanatham. Sir, I disagree entirely with my friend Mr. Ari Gowder when he says that this cut motion is an innocent and innocuous one. It is neither innocent nor innocuous; but it is an ingenious device to sabotage Prohibition. Sir, I do not mean any reflection personally or otherwise on my Friend Mr. Viswanatham; but if this cut motion is carried, it will be viewed as an undeserved and unjust verdict on the working of Prohibition in this State. If it were a cut motion recommending the appointment of a committee to advise the Government on how to enforce Prohibition more efficiently and successfully then I will be most vehement in supporting it. But that is not the cut motion before us.

6-45
p.m.

"Sir, the cut motion is one to review the policy of Prohibition and recommend the desirability of continuing Prohibition or otherwise and therein lies the whole trouble. As a matter of fact, this will be another very powerful factor for sabotaging Prohibition which this Government are struggling to enforce in this country for the protection of millions of poor toiling people of this land, and if this motion is carried, the people who are now opposing Prohibition will be all the more strengthened and emboldened to oppose Prohibition. There will be a lot of confusion created in the country, with the result that uninformed public opinion might be trotted out as being against Prohibition and the hands of the Government would be weakened and a very healthy and desirable scheme of the Government will be simply crushed and sabotaged by the present cut motion. So, I, in the name of the toiling millions, in the name of the poor—on whose behalf my Communist friends claim a monopoly to speak—say that if this cut motion is carried, you will be doing an injustice and a positive harm not only to the present generation but to the generations yet unborn. And in this view, every one of us will have to ponder deeply before supporting the cut motion. May I know, whether there is any justification for a motion of this nature, for appointing a committee to report on the desirability or otherwise

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[Janab K. M. Seethi]

of continuing the policy of Prohibition? In fact, practically every hon. Member who supported this motion was arguing for Prohibition and gave a verdict against Prohibition. That is the irony of fate. Everybody is saying that drink is an evil and has to be combated and therefore Prohibition is very desirable and in the same breath says 'Do not have Prohibition'. That is the curious attitude of the Members. I would respectfully submit that those who speak in favour of Prohibition and in the same breath oppose it, are not really sincere in their professions against drink and do not believe in the right of the State to have legislation for enforcing Prohibition. They did not make a secret of it. Morality seems to be the worst enemy of my friends. They say, morality has nothing to do with men and therefore should be kept at arm's length. That is the line of argument that I usually hear from several of my friends. I would submit that this cut motion will be justifiable, if a proposal for a committee to report about the desirability or otherwise of continuing the penal laws of the country like the Penal Code, which curtail the liberty of the individual and lay down certain punishment for violation of laws is justifiable. It is no mere moralisation that is involved in the matter of Prohibition of drink. It has a vital social bearing also. My friends forget the fact that Prohibition deals with the source of crime. If statistics of crime are taken, the causes of crimes will be found more traceable to drink of intoxicating liquors than to any other single factor. If crimes can be penalized by legislation and if my friends have no quarrel with such penal enactments, I fail to see, how they will take objection to penalizing the origin or the genesis of crime, which is drink. As a matter of fact, those who have moved with the poor and the middle-class people would be struck by the undeniable fact that drink has led to multiplication of crimes in society. Murders and other heinous crimes and crimes of different varieties, are all traceable to the evil of drink. Apart from the deleterious effect of drink on the health of man and the poisonous effects of drink, society stands to suffer by drink. It is not only the drunkard who suffers. The society round about him suffers. Innocently and without knowing the consequences, a man under the influence of drink commits the murder of his best friend, his own wife, his own mother and his own child. Such things have been happening in this country. We should tackle the source of crime at its very foundation by enforcing Prohibition. My hon. Friends have always been talking about the welfare of the poor people and they must know that 80 to 90 per cent of the people who are poor stand to gain by this healthy policy of Prohibition, which the Government are following. But our friends say, 'Do not have it, but scrap it'. Are these friends really the friends of the poor? When it comes to brass-tacks to prove whether they stand for the welfare of the poor or not, they have miserably failed, even though they, in their speeches made on the floor of this House, claim to speak on their behalf. It is not a theoretical improvement of the condition of the poor that the world expects from them, but practical relief to them on suitable occasions so as to show to the world

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that they are really the friends of the poor. I say, on the floor of this House that the Communists and their friends have proved themselves by their attitude to Prohibition to be not the friends of the poor but the enemies of the poor. That fact cannot be gainsaid. It is as clear as a pikestaff.

" Sir, they also argued that an excise revenue of Rs. 17 crores is lost by the introduction of Prohibition. They must know that this excise revenue is mainly derived from the poor. It is the poor people that are really taxed for drink. They say, by the working of Prohibition for the last five years, it has proved its ineffectiveness and it is a failure. I won't agree. As a matter of fact, more than the violation of Prohibition laws, there is a violation of veracity in exaggerating the extent of the violations of the Prohibition law. Whatever be the violation of the Prohibition law, it is caused more by the rich and the reckless elements in our society than by the innocent poor. The fact is that there has not been so much violation of the Prohibition law as alleged by our friends. My friends would have to agree that an appreciable percentage of people have been weaned away from drink by the introduction of Prohibition. Therefore, it is worthwhile trying this experiment for a long time and to see that it is made a success in this land. We cannot give up this experiment. We cannot give it up after trying it for five or ten years. We must know that the Abkari law was in existence for about a century.

" My friends also said that by taxing drink and making it more expensive, consumption of drink would be reduced. But I feel that by doing so, the drink revenue will no doubt increase but with it millions of poor people who were not drunkards before will become drunkards. Therefore, let us try this experiment for a long time. We should not give it up after trying it for a decade or two. It is premature to say that Prohibition is a failure. I do not grant that it is a failure. I come from a district where this experiment is a success. There may be violations of Prohibition laws here and there as in the case of other laws. There was illicit distillation even before Prohibition was enforced. There was this so-called 'cottage industry' long before Prohibition was introduced. Sir, 'cottage industry' is a very fascinating term. The fact is that illicit distillation has not become anything like a cottage industry in this land. This cottage industry slogan is the figurative way of expressing the desires of certain people to sabotage Prohibition. As far as my district is concerned, I know from actual contact with the people that it has not become a cottage industry at all. The reform of Prohibition has conferred a great boon upon the poorer sections of the people. If you want to continue the sufferings of the poor man which he has been undergoing for centuries by victimizing him to the evil of drink, then support this cut motion and sabotage Prohibition. But I must tell the Government that in the enforcement of Prohibition, they have not been successful cent per cent. The reason is that the Ministries in the past proved weak-kneed and compromising in the handling of the administration of Prohibition law."

16th July 1952] [Janab K. M. Seethi]

MR. SPEAKER :—"The hon. Member's time is up. Now, Mr. Shanmugham will speak. I have to inform the House that the House will sit till 7-5 p.m. when the hon. Member will finish his speech."

* SRI T. SHANMUGAM :—"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, இப்பொழுது இங்கே பேசிக்கொண்டிருந்தவர்கள் எல்லாம் ப்ரொஹிபிஷன் இன்னும் இருப்பதாக நினைத்துக்கொண்டே பேசியிருக்கிறார்கள் என்று தெரிகிறது. ப்ரொஹிபிஷன் ஆக்ட் இருக்கிறதேயொழிய ப்ரொஹிபிஷன் கிடையாது. (சிரிப்பு.) ப்ரொஹிபிஷன் நாளடைவில் கொஞ்சம் கொஞ்சமாக மறைந்தேவிட்டது. அதாவது அழிந்து போய்விட்டது. எங்கு பார்த்தாலும் சின்னச்சின்ன தெருக்களிலும், கடைகளிலும், ஒவ்வொரு வீடுகளிலும்கூட இப்பொழுது கள், காராயம் விற்கப்படுகிறது. இது எல்லோருக்கும் தெரிந்த விஷயம். காங்கிரஸ் நண்பர்களுக்கும் தெரியும். அவர்கள் எல்லோரும் இதைத் தெரிந்துகொண்டுதான், தேர்தலிலே மக்களிடம் வோட்டுக் கேட்பொழுது, 'எங்களுக்கு வோட்டுக் கொடுத்தீர்களேயானால் நாங்கள் மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை ரத்து செய்து விடுகிறோம்,' என்று சொன்னார்கள். (காங்கிரஸ் கட்சிக்காரர்கள் பலர் : 'பொய், பொய்' நாங்கள் அப்படிச் சொல்லவில்லை) எல்லாரும் அப்படிச் சொன்னார்கள் என்று நான் சொல்லவில்லை. அனேகம் பேர்கள் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்கள். அப்படிச் சொல்லித்தான் வோட்டும் பலபேர்கள் வாங்கியிருக்கிறார்கள். எனக்குத் தெரியும். நாங்கள் 'எங்களுக்கு வோட்டுப் போடுங்கள். மதுவிலக்கை ரத்து செய்துவிடுகிறோம்' என்று தான் வோட்டு வாங்கிவந்தோம். இப்பொழுது அதைப்பற்றி நான் சொல்லும்போது அந்தக் கட்சிக்காரர்களுக்கு ஏன் கோபம் வருகிறதென்று தான் எனக்குத் தெரியவில்லை."

SRI K. RAJARAM :—"வோட்டுப் போடுங்கள். மதுவிலக்கை ரத்து செய்துவிடுகிறோம்" என்று நாங்கள் பொதுமக்களிடம் கேட்டதாகப் பொய் சொன்னீர்களானால் கோபம் வராது யின் என்ன செய்யும் ?"

* SRI T. SHANMUGAM :—"நான் நடந்ததைத்தான் சொல்லுகிறேன். எனக்கு எதிராக நின்று தோற்றுப்போன காங்கிரஸ்காரர்கட அவருக்கு வோட்டுப்போட்டால் மதுவிலக்கை எடுத்துவிடுவதாகத்தான் சொன்னார். இன்னும் பல காங்கிரஸ்காரர்களும் உண்மையாகவே 16 கோடி, 18 கோடி என்று அரசாங்கத்தின் வருமானத்தையும் இழந்து, அந்த சட்டத்தையும் ஒழுங்காக நடத்திவைக்கவில்லையென்பதால்தான் ப்ரொஹிபிஷன் எடுத்து விடவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னார்கள். உண்மையை உணர்ந்து அவர்கள் அப்படி அதை ஒப்புக்கொண்டார்கள்."

"இப்பொழுது இருக்கக்கூடிய மந்திரி சபையில்கூட ராஜாஜி முதன் மந்திரியாக இல்லாவிட்டால் கட்டாயமாக பாக்கி இருக்கிற மந்திரிகள் எல்லோரும் நியாயமாக அவர்கள் மனதில் இருக்கிறபடி இந்த மது விலக்குச் சட்டம் வேண்டாமென்றே ஒப்புக்கொண்டிருப்பார்கள். (சிரிப்பு.) ஆனால் இப்போது ராஜாஜி வந்துதான் அதை அமுல் நடத்தியவர்களை மகா சங்கடமாக்கப் போய்விட்டது. மக்களுக்குக் கொடுத்த வாக்குறுதியை மறந்து விட்டுக்கூட பேச வேண்டியிருக்கிறது."

"கனம் ராஜாஜி, மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை ஒழிப்பதனால், 'முதலில் என்னை ஒழித்துவிட்டு பிறகு மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை ஒழியுங்கள்' என்று சொன்னதாகத் தெரிகிறது. முன்னே ப்ரொஹிபிஷன் சட்டத்தைக் முதன் முதலாக சேலத்திலே கொண்டுவந்து அதை அமுல் நடத்தியவர்களை மகா ராஜாஜிதான், அப்பொழுது அதனால் 7 கோடி ரூபாய்தான் வருமானம் குறைந்தது. அதைப்போக்க வருமான வரியைக் கொண்டுவந்தார். அப்புறம் மாகாணம் முழுவதும் அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவந்த பிறகு அதனால் அதிகமான பணம் நஷ்டம் ஏற்பட்டது. அதை ஈடுகட்ட இப்பொழுது

[Sri T. Shanmugam]

[16th July 1952]

பலபல புதுப்புது வரிகள், சர்சார்ஜ் வரி, பெட்டர்மெண்டு வரி, பெட் ரோல் வரி என்பதாகவெல்லாம் புதிய வரித்திட்டங்களைக் கொண்டுவருகிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது ப்ரொஹிபிஷனை எடுத்துவிட்டால் உடனடியாக சர்க்காருக்கு 16, 17 கோடி ரூபாய்கள் நிச்சயமாக வருமானம் கிடைக்கும். புதிய வரிகளுக்கு அவசியமே இல்லாமல் போய்விடக்கூடும். அந்த வரிப் பணத்தை வைத்துக்கொண்டு கல்விக்காகவும் நன்றாக செலவு செய்யலாம். இப்பொழுது ஹரிஜனங்கள்தான் அதிகமாகக் குடிக்கிறார்கள் என்றால் அவர்களுக்கு கல்வி அறிவு புகட்டிவிட்டால் அவர்கள் குடிக்கமாட்டார்கள். எனக்குத் தெரியும். ஹரிஜனங்கள்தான் முன்னே அதிகமாகக் குடித்துவந்தார்கள். இப்பொழுதும் தேர்தலிலே வேட்டுக் கேட்க போனபோது, கள் இல்லாமல் மிகவும் கஷ்டப்படுகிற ஹரிஜனங்கள் எல்லோரும் என்னிடம் வந்து, 'ஐயா, உங்களுக்கே வேட்டுப் போடுகிறோம். எப்படியாவது கள் ஒழிப்புச் சட்டத்தை எடுத்துவிடுங்கள்' என்று கெஞ்சினார்கள். அவர்கள் நிலைமை ரொம்பவும் பரிதாபகரமாக இருக்கிறது."

SRI A. M. RATNASWAMI :—" Sir, I rise on a point of order. Is it proper for the hon. Member to say that the Scheduled Classes alone are addicted to drink? "

7 p.m. * SRI T. SHANMUGAM :—" அவர்கள் அப்படிக் கெஞ்சினார்கள். மதுவிலக்கை ஒழிக்கிறேன் என்று சொல்லித்தான் நான் வேட்டுப் பெற்று வந்தேன். எப்படியாவது அவர்களது கஷ்டத்தை நீக்கவேண்டும்.

"இன்றைக்கு வேண்டியது மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டமா? கட்டத் துணி, உண்ண உணவு, பருக்க இடம் இவைகளா என்று நாம் பார்க்கவேண்டும். திங்க சோறு இல்லாது கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். படிக்கலாம் என்றால் பள்ளிக்கூடம் கிடையாது. ஜில்லாபோர்டை கேட்டால், 'நீங்கள் கட்டிடம் கட்டித்தாருங்கள், நாங்கள் வேண்டுமானால் பள்ளிக்கூடம் அதிலே நடத்துகிறோம்' என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். இந்த நிலைமையை மாற்றி ஒவ்வொரு ஊருக்கும் ஒரு பள்ளிக்கூடம், அதற்குத் தகுந்த கட்டிடம் இவைகளையெல்லாம் நாம் ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டும். இதற்கு பணம் இல்லை, இல்லை என்றால் பணத்திற்கு ஏதாவது வழி பண்ணத்தான் வேண்டும். அதற்காகத்தான் மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை ரத்து செய்துவிடவேண்டுமென்று நான் சொல்லுகிறேன். அதோடு இங்கேயிருக்கிற காங்கிரஸ்காரர்கள் எல்லோருக்கும் தெரியும். கள்ளைக் குடிப்பது உடம்புக்கு நல்லது. ஆனால் கள்ளுக்குப் புதிலாக இப்பொழுது கண்டகண்ட போதை கொடுக்கும் வஸ்துக்களையெல்லாம் அவர்கள் குடித்து, மாண்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இதைத் தெரிந்துகொண்டும் கூட அவர்கள் என் இப்படி இப்பொழுது பேசுகிறார்கள் என்பதுதான் எனக்குத்தெரியவில்லை. எத்தனையோ பேர் ஆயிரக்கணக்கில் செத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இது எல்லாம் நன்றாக ராஜாஜிக்குத் தெரியும். ராஜாஜி ப்ரொஹிபிஷனைக் கொண்டு வந்தபோது நல்ல எண்ணத்தோடுதான் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள். அதைப் பற்றி தவறான எண்ணமே கிடையாது. ஆனால் இப்பொழுது அந்த சட்டத்தினால்தான் அதிகமான கஷ்டம் வருகிறது என்பதை அவர்களுக்குச் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். எப்படி ரேஷனல் மக்களுக்கு ரொம்பவும் கஷ்டம் வந்தவுடன் அதை உடனே எடுத்தார்களோ, அதைப் போலவே இப்பொழுதும் இந்த மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை எடுத்துவிட்டால் மக்கள் ரொம்பவும் சந்தோஷப்படுவார்கள். மழை இல்லாததால் ஜனங்கள் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு எல்லாம் ரேஷனை எடுத்தவுடன் எப்படி கொஞ்சம் சந்தோஷம் வந்ததோ அதைப் போல இதையும் எடுத்துவிட்டால் ரொம்பவும் சந்தோஷப்படுவார்கள்.

"இப்பொழுது பாருங்கள். சென்னையிலே எல்லா இடங்களிலும் மதுவிலக்குச் சட்டத்தை கொண்டுவந்தபோது ஸ்ரீமான் பண்டித் நேருகூட, 'எதையும் உடனே அவசரப்பட்டுக் கொண்டு செய்யாதீர்கள். கொஞ்சம் கொஞ்சமாக யோசித்துக்கொண்டு செய்யுங்கள்.' என்று சொன்னார்.

16th July 1952]

[Sri T. Shanmugam]

ஆனால் நாம்தான் கொஞ்சம் அவசரப்பட்டுவிட்டோம். ரேஷனை எடுத்தது கூட அவசரம் என்றுதான் நான் சொல்லுவேன். எப்படியும் எடுக்கத் தான் வேண்டுமென்றாலும், புது அறுவடை ஆனபிறகு அந்த சமயத்திலே ரேஷனை எடுத்திருந்தால் எல்லோருக்கும் உணவு கிடைக்க வழி ஏற்பட்டிருக்கும். ‘மழை வேறு இல்லாது இருக்கும்பொழுது ரேஷனை எடுத்துவிட்டார்களே, இப்பொழுது என்ன செய்வது’ என்று தெரியாமல் மக்கள் வேறு கவலைப்பட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள்.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ I now adjourn the House to meet again at 10-30 a.m. on Thursday, 17th July 1952.”

The House then adjourned.





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